

24 kids to undergo cardiac surgery at concessional rates

A team from UK to visit once every three months to perform heart surgeries

ST CORRESPONDENT

reporters@sakaltimes.com

Picture: Shashwat Gupta Ray

Pune: Twenty-four children will undergo heart surgery at concessional rates as part of the Healing Little Hearts Initiative of Mukul Madhav Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Finolex Industries.

The other two collaborators in this initiative are the Healing Little Hearts Foundation, UK and Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune. This initiative was conceived to benefit people at the bottom of the pyramid and addresses a critical gap in health care. A team of specialists fly down from UK once every three months to perform heart surgeries on children at Ruby Hall Clinic and train the local cardiac team in postoperative care.

"Ruby Hall Clinic, apart from providing infrastructure for the operations, also helps in shortlisting the children. About 50 per cent of the surgeries are done at a concessional rate ranging from 20 to 80 per cent. Since the programme commenced in 2014, about 68 children have benefited under this initiative. We hope to take this number to 100 by this year-end," Chief Cardiologist at Ruby Hall Clinic, Dr Purvez K Grant said.

Thanking the Healing Little Hearts Foundation in furthering the cause of cardiac care of children in India, Dr Grant said that Ruby Hall Clinic on its part will continue to support this effort financially as well as by providing infrastructure for the operations.

"We are grateful to Finolex Industries and Mukul Madhav Foundation, who have purchased essential lifesaving equipment for the paediatric unit likely to come up soon. It will have 50 beds. It will come up in the new facility in the hospital's same Sassoon Road complex," Dr Grant said.

Managing Trustee of Mukul Mad-



NOBLE CAUSE: The key members of the team involved in the surgery initiative. (From L to R) Chief Nurse with Healing Little Hearts Lesky Mestry, Dr Purvez Grant, Ritu Chhabria, Dr Sanjiv Nichani and Chief Operating Officer, Ruby Hall Clinic Dr Raja Sekhar.

BENEFICIARY SPEAK



My son has a severe heart problem. The surgery cost was Rs 4 lakh. I had to spend only Rs 1 lakh. The rest was

paid by the hospital.

— **Ajay Jadhav** (father of 3-year-old Shreyas Jadhav)



My son had a problem in his heart valve. The surgery cost was Rs 4 lakh, but I was required to pay only Rs 1

lakh.

— **Shivaji Bhosale** (father of 2-year-old Viraj Bhosale)

hav Foundation, Ritu Chhabria said, "We have excellent surgeons in India. In fact we have Dr Manoj Durairaj from Ruby Hall Clinic and Dr Smaritin Abraham from Kerala, who will be performing the surgeries this time. What we lack are specialists in postoperative care."

Dr Sanjiv Nichani, a UK-based paed-

iatric intensivist of Indian origin, who is also founder of the Healing Little Hearts Foundation, said, "Operating on children so young is a real challenge. Given the delicacy of the task at hand, every success gives us great joy. It is an honour to be a part of this effort to give something back to the country of my origin."