

Bravo! Doctors hit the bull's-eye

NUMBER GAME

- 5 nephrologists
- 5 assistant nephrologists
- 10 urologist-surgeons
- 10 assistant urologist-surgeons
- 5 vascular surgeons
- 10 anaesthetists
- 10 OT nursing staff
- 20 ward boys
- 10 operation theatres
- 3 hospitals were involved in the domino kidney transplant

Santosh Andhale @Santosh_Andhale

After facing many hurdles for getting permission from the government, country's first-ever domino kidney transplant was successfully performed in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The domino kidney transplant, which involves five donors and five recipients, was conducted in three hospitals – two transplant procedures each in Bombay Hospital and Hiranandani hospital and one in Hinduja hospital. All the transplants were done on the same day. A domino transplant is a series of surgeries in which each of the five donors gives an organ to a recipient not related to him/her, while the donor's relative needing an organ gets it from a recipient's relative. Legal issues are involved in organ donation cases when the donor and recipient are not related.

Dr Shirang Bicchu, nephrologist, Bombay hospital, said, "The success of this procedure will now set a precedent and encourage people to opt for it as it reduces a patient's wait for the organ. We are very thankful to the government of Maharashtra; it helped speed up the procedure."

As the transplant was being conducted in city hospitals and because four of the five donor-recipient pairs were from Maharashtra, permission of the state authorisation committee was necessary, which was given last week.

On May 19, *dna* had first reported about the denial of the Rajasthan government in giving its nod to the procedure. Of the five donor-recipient pairs involved, one is from Rajasthan.

Permission had been sought from the Rajasthan state authorisation committee, a body mandated to clear such transplants to prevent illegal trade of organs. The committee, however, denied permission citing the Supreme Court guidelines that said nothing about a 'domino' procedure. "It is a routine procedure in the United States; its success has been reported in several journals," said Dr Rajesh Kumar, nephrologist, Hiranandani hospital. santosh.andhale@dnaindia.net

