

Surgery hope for Parkinson's patients

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KOLKATA: It's good news for thousands of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease in Bengal and in eastern India.

A team of doctors comprising neurosurgeons Dr LN Tripathy, in-charge of the Medical Institute of Neurological Diseases (MIND), Dr Tipu Aziz, head of functional neurosurgery unit at John Radcliffe Hospital in UK, and Dr Dipankar Nandi of Charing Cross Hospital in the UK performed a surgery on a 53-year-old female patient on Tuesday and successfully stopped the symptoms of severe tremors of the patient.

Tripathy said, "Parkinson's is an incurable disease. But the surgical procedure can successfully control the problems to a



great extent for about minimum 20 years. We performed the surgery deep brain stimulations (DBS), a process used in the brain to treat a variety of disabling neurological disorders, particularly Parkinson's disease, on the patient. The surgery took only 30 minutes through local anaesthesia."

"DBS uses a surgically implanted, battery-operated medical device neurostimulator like pacemaker. The neurostimulator delivers electrical stimula-

tion to targeted areas in the brain that control movement blocking abnormal nerve signals that cause tremors and other symptoms. The patient has responded to the surgery satisfactorily. She is doing well," said Nandi.

Parkinson's disease is on the rise in Kolkata as well as in eastern states. In Kolkata, at least one in every 100 people above 60 suffers from such incurable neurological disorders, Tripathy said.

"It is a very useful surgery for critical patients of above 50. Some private hospitals in Kolkata have introduced DBS surgery," said Shyamol Das, a neuro-medicine expert associated with the Bangur Institute of Neurology.

The minimum cost of the surgery is around ₹1 lakh. DBS is the final option when medication fails, doctors said.