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Head Line: Medica Cures Whistle Boy

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Medica cures whistle boy

Pics: Prabir Bhattacharaya



Inset: Dr Arjun Dasgupta

Seven year old Hijbul Ali Khan of Shorberia district in West Midnapore had swallowed a one centimetre long whistle while playing with his friends in January this year. It got stuck in the left main bronchus. He received small time fame in his village for eleven days as the sound of the whistle accompanied his conversation. But his difficulty in breathing caught his mother's attention who consulted many doctors in her village. But all went in vain due to a lack of expertise. After the local doctors failed to cure him, he was brought to ENT surgeons at Medica Superspeciality hospital. "It could have proved fatal for the boy if the whistle had stayed there for some more time. There could have been swelling, infection or he could have eventually choked to death," said Dr Arjun

Dasgupta, Consultant ENT at Medica Superspeciality hospital, who as a part of a five member team conducted the operation successfully.

Ahida Biwi, Hizbul's mother expressed her thanks to the doctors for helping her out financially as well. More than 50 per cent of the expense was waived by the doctors to save Hijbul's life. Dr Dasgupta expressed his concern over the frequent incidents of children swallowing small parts of toys. He receives similar cases once or twice a week, and has attended patients swallowing beads or peanuts but swallowing a whistle was a first of its kind case. On a lighter note, it reminded him of the unforgettable scene from *City Lights* where Charlie Chaplin had swallowed a whistle and made the audience burst into peels of laughter. — Farah Khatoun