

Name: ABMH

Publication: Times of India.com

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## Pune doctors treats woman with spinal disorder using cutting edge technology

Pune: A team of doctors successfully operated a 42-year-old woman with spinal instability disorder using high technology monitoring device.

"A mother of two from West Bengal afflicted with a spinal instability disorder needed placement of screws and other implants in the back bone, besides considerable manipulation of the spine that contained vital nerves to the legs", said consultant brain and spine surgeon Hirshikesh Sarkar at Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital who treated the woman with Intra Operative Neuro Physiological Monitoring (IONM) system.

"During the IONM, it was discovered that there was a dip in the nerve activity during manipulation and fixation. Immediately measures were taken to improve the nerve activity and post operatively she went back home with absolutely normal power in her legs. Even in the best hands and navigation methods, there is always a chance of nerve damage during the spine surgery," Sarkar said.

In absence of reliable neurological monitoring, damage to nerve and spinal cord can occur resulting in paralysis, loss of urine/bowel control and persistent pain following the surgery. "This risk is significantly reduced by doing IONM. Imagine a scenario, where in, a surgery is being performed on the heart without an ECG monitoring device. It would be criminal, even, to think in that way. The same holds true for the IONM during spine and brain surgery," Sarkar said.

Neurologist Mona Thakre points out that it is a team work where constant interaction between the specialists is necessary to perform this highly technical monitoring.

"It does indeed add to the existing expenses, however by preventing mishaps like paralysis, in long term it adds to immense benefits to patients. This has been proven in scientific trials," Thakre said.