

High Risk Covid-19 Senior Citizens with Cardiac Issues Get New Lease of Life at BLK-Max Hospital

~ Patients were given Monoclonal Antibody Cocktail Therapy to which they responded well and are now out of danger ~

Delhi/NCR, June 3, 2021: In what has been dubbed as a breakthrough treatment to prevent severe COVID-19 illness, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital successfully administered Monoclonal Antibody Cocktail (MAC) therapy to two of its extremely high-risk coronavirus senior citizen patients on Tuesday, saving them from developing severe complications.

Sunirmal Ghatak, 70 years of age, with a known heart problem who had undergone angioplasty with stenting in the past was admitted late last week. Suresh Kumar Trehan, 65, reported to the hospital two days ago with severe breathlessness and was unable to lie down due to respiratory distress. He had no previous history of any ailment. His echocardiography showed strained heart with ejection fraction of only 25%. The good thing was that both had oxygen saturation above 95% and came to the hospital within 3 days of developing symptoms.

Commenting on this novel procedure and its usage Dr Sandeep Nayar, Senior Director & HOD, BLK-Max Centre for Chest & Respiratory Diseases said, “Majority of people recovering from COVID-19 produce antibodies as a defense mechanism against the virus and now scientists have found that they can produce these very antibodies in a laboratory setting. Monoclonal antibodies are identical copies of an antibody that targets one specific antigen. This treatment has previously been used to treat infections such as Ebola and HIV. As per studies this ‘Antibody Cocktail Treatment’ for COVID-19 can prevent case escalation from mild to moderate illness to severe which then requires hospitalisation in 70% of the cases.”

According to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), selection of patients for this therapy requires that they have Covid positive test report, mild to moderate Covid disease, are in the age group of 12 and above, weighing at least 40 kg, and are at a high risk of COVID-19 infection. Treatment with monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 confirmed patients needs to begin within 10 days of onset of symptoms. However, those on oxygen support are not eligible to avail of this therapy.

Dr Nayar further added, “This treatment is most effective if started within a few days of receiving a COVID-19 positive report. If a person begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms and is part of a high-risk group, they should consult their doctor at the earliest and check if this therapy would be appropriate for them. This therapy is most effective if taken as early as possible in the disease course so the sooner the better, even if the patient is not feeling that bad yet. In high-risk patients, receiving treatment earlier, when

symptoms are less severe, may help prevent progression of the disease that would otherwise require hospitalisation. However, physician consultation and prescription are mandatory to receive this treatment.”

Monoclonal antibody cocktail therapy is given through an intravenous (IV) infusion or via subcutaneous route and requires about an hour to administer, followed by an hour of observation and monitoring. Post administration, the patient is discharged after a few hours of observation. Regardless of whether a patient has received the monoclonal antibody therapy, anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 needs to quarantine.

About Max Healthcare:

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MHIL has a network of 12 hospitals and 4 medical facilities in North and West India, offering services in over 30 medical disciplines. Of the total network, 8 hospitals and 4 medical centres are located in Delhi &NCR and the others are located in the cities of Mumbai, Mohali, Bathinda and Dehradun. The Max network includes state-of-the-art tertiary care hospitals at Saket, Patparganj, Rajendra Place, Vaishali and Shalimar Bagh in Delhi and Mumbai, Mohali, Bathinda and Dehradun, secondary care hospital in Gurgaon and Day Care Centres at Noida, Lajpat Nagar and Panchsheel Park in NCR Delhi. The Super Speciality Hospitals in Mohali and Bathinda are under Public Private Partnership arrangement with the Government of Punjab.

In addition to the core hospital business, Max Healthcare also has two SBUs, namely, Max@Home and MaxLab. Max@Home is a platform that provides health and wellness services at home and MaxLab offers diagnostic services to patients outside its network.

Source: Times of India

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