

Swap Liver Transplant brings Two Coimbatore Hospitals Together

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In an incredible medical accomplishment, GEM Hospital and Sri Ramakrishna Hospital in Coimbatore performed the first-ever inter-hospital swap liver transplant in India in July 2025, thereby granting two patients with end-stage liver disease a second chance at life.

The two patients both males—a 59-year-old admitted in GEM hospital and a 53-year-old who was in Sri Ramakrishna hospital—had blood group incompatible but willing donors (their wives). The doctors found a common match: one wife could give her liver to the other patient and the two could undergo a swap transplant.

The difficult process needed synchronized surgeries at the two hospitals which were only five kilometers apart, a video link between the surgical teams in real-time, and the organs were transported via the specially outfitted ambulances.

Swap transplant not only increases the donor pool for patients who have incompatible donors but it also hints at a major change in the transplant protocol in India. "This model can be a groundbreaker for liver and kidney transplants," remarked Dr. Magnus Jayaraj of GEM. The surgeries were covered under the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

The success of this transplant sets a precedent for the eventual wider adoption of inter-hospital swap transplants but only under stringent legal and ethical oversight.

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To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. Swap Liver Transplant brings Two Coimbatore Hospitals Together. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 July-Sep; 24(3):p3. DOI: 10.64384/ITN.2025.046

