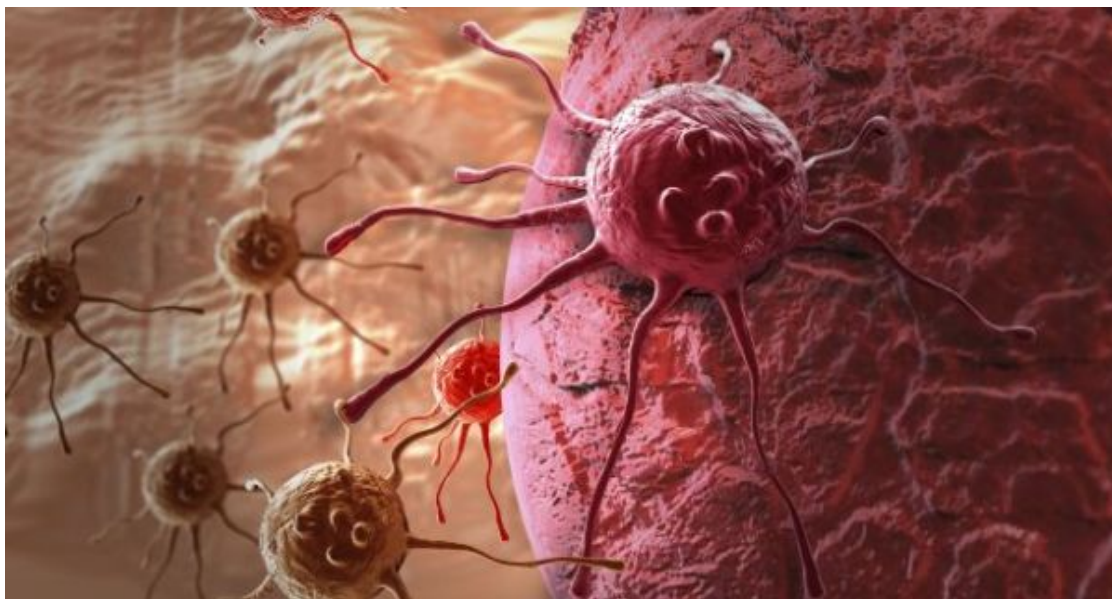


New treatment at AIMS hospital in Kerala saves 19-year old with blood cancer

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Kochi, Nov 27: A 19-year old girl, who had slipped into a life-threatening stage of acute blood cancer or acute myeloid leukaemia even after two cycles of chemotherapy, was treated successfully at The Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) with a new treatment protocol called 'Microtransplant.'

According to Neeraj Sidharth, head of bone and marrow transplant programme at AIMS, 'The success of the treatment is a major breakthrough and opens up a window of opportunity for those select patients with relapsed and refractory leukaemia'.

What is Microtransplant?

It is a procedure that involves normal chemotherapy followed by infusion of intentionally mismatched cells. The unique procedure is based on immunological killing of leukemic cells. Unlike normal treatment for acute blood cancer, this procedure does not require heavy dose of chemotherapy, followed by infusion of matched stem cells to replace the patient's stem cells. Chances of disease relapsing seem to be significantly lesser compared to standard

chemotherapy extrapolating from the long-term published data available from China. (Read: [9 blood cancer signs and symptoms you should know](#))

What is the cost of the treatment?

Microtransplant is cost effective – one fifth of the cost of standard treatment available and the patient needs to be hospitalised for just three weeks. The result was a success, according to the AIMS. ‘Worldwide cellular therapy has been done in a more sophisticated and costly manner in select centres at North America. What we attempted was similar to what has been already tried in Israel and China and published in reputed scientific journals,’ said Sidharth, who was guided by experts in the field from Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, US, and from China. (Read: [3 types of blood related cancers you should know about](#))

With inputs from IANS

Photo source: Getty images