

KERALA

Kochi extends its heart of love to Ugandan children



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STAFF REPORTER

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10 poor children from the African country undergo free cardiac surgery at city hospital

A group of 10 young children from Uganda, one boy and nine girls, all suffering from congenital heart diseases, have undergone open-heart surgery at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and are ready to return home next week.

The patients were brought here under the Rotary International's "Gift of Life" programme which provides free treatment to poor children from around the world with heart diseases. The children, including two infants aged 6 and 9 months, were previously screened by paediatric cardiologists from Children's National Hospital, Washington DC, and identified as suitable candidates for surgery.

Dr. P.K. Brijesh, the heart surgeon, who performed the surgeries, said that while the children were brought here with the aim of providing surgical treatment for cardiac diseases, a few of them were also found with other ailments.