

EXPRESS

Pharma Pulse

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESS

From the Wards

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Doctor Performs Arm Re-plant Surgeries

**By A Correspondent
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Dr. Ashok Gupta has recently performed two major operations involving re-plants for proximal amputation at the upper arm level. In both cases there was an unavoidable gap of time between the original injury and the surgery for limb re-plantation.

In the first, performed on May 31, a young engineer had an industrial accident the day before in Bhopal. The opinion was that he had a sub-total amputation of the right arm. After 24 hours, he arrived at Bombay Hospital in a condition of shock complicated by peripheral circulatory failure.

Rigor mortis had set in the affected limb. An urgent DSA revealed complete arterial block at the level of subclavian artery and below. Dr Gupta performed microsurgical exploration under general anesthesia, which showed traumatisation of the brachial artery.

A long saphenous vein graft was used between the subclavian and brachial arteries to effect re-vascularization. Success in the operation was judged only 36 hours after the accident.

Along with rigor mortis, it had been noticed earlier that the distal portion of the limb involving forearm, wrist, palm and fingers had become discolored, black and mummified.

The color now returned. It was observed to be a healthy pink. A needle inserted into the fingertip drew fresh capillary blood.

After making sure that venous effluents had been circulated out, the arm was effectively positioned back in place in another two hours. Success in such surgery is usually difficult after a 30-hour time lag, and this particular case was a commendable one.

In the second case, which came up after a few days, a young 20-year-old girl lost her left arm in a car accident on June 3, in the afternoon at Pen, near New Bombay.

The Lokmanya Tilak Hospital expressed inability to do much, in view of the extent of the damage and the time it had taken to move her to Sion. Dr. Ashok Gupta and Dr. M L Saraf decided to accept the case and operated at the Bombay Hospital at nearly midnight of the same day.

The surgery was complex and lasted for over 8 hours. It was a similar case to the first where stoppage of circulation for over 14 hours meant that rigor mortis had set in, in the distal amputated limb.

The operation was successful and the girl survived without loss of her limb. Dr. Ashok Gupta, Dr. Saraf, Bombay Hospital and their team's can now announce their achievements in the field of microsurgical reconstructive procedures.