

Brachytherapy now in north Bengal



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Siliguri, 23 August

Medica Cancer Hospital (MCH), Siliguri, successfully performed an interstitial implant on a lip cancer patient for the first time in north Bengal. Dr Swapnendu Basu of the MCH said at a press conference on Saturday.

Addressing media persons at the Siliguri Journalists Club, Dr Basu said that brachytherapy (used for treating cancer) was used to cure a 65 year old lip cancer patient from Nepal, successfully.

He along with his team performed the interstitial implant on the patient on 13 August.

According to Dr Basu, brachytherapy is a more modernized way of providing radiotherapy to treat cancer patients, which

unlike the external beam therapy, focuses the radiation given internally within the tumour, thereby avoiding radiation spillage. To do this, a permanent tube is inserted into the affected area of a patient to reach the tumour, through which controlled radiation is given.

Brachytherapy also heavily reduces the time taken to treat cancer patients, however, as the process is surgical, skilled radiologists and doctors are required for its proper application, Dr Basu said.

He added that he along with his team successfully treated Kedarman Limbu, 66, who is now only left to recover from a few radiation side effects. He added that the therapy can be used for cancers of the cervix, mouth, breast and other areas externally accessible.