

14-MONTH-OLD CURED OF CANCER AFTER SURGERY

Surgery brings Suhani Gautam back from the brink after being detected with large tumour in her liver



Suhani was operated upon by a team of surgeons and oncologists on November 4

PH: DR P THAKER

MEHUL JANI

Little Suhani is back on her feet, or fours, after a successful cancer surgery on her liver at a city hospital recently. The 14-month-old girl was operated for a malignant tumour bigger than a tennis ball in the right side of her liver.

Suhani, daughter of Samir Gautam, a resident of Bopal and manager in a factory in Kadi, and Deepa, a housewife, was growing up as a healthy child, but occasionally suffered bouts of fever. When she was 11 months old, she developed difficulty in passing stool.

She was shown to paediatricist Dr Utpal Shah, who advised a sonography of the infant. The sonography revealed a tumour in Suhani's liver.

She was then referred to surgeon Dr Parthiv Shah. A biopsy later, the infant was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma, i.e. cancer of the liver.

Following this, Suhani was admitted to Sterling Hospital. There, she was put under the care of cancer specialist Dr Deepa Trivedi. "Tests conducted on the child revealed that she had a large tu-

mour in her liver. We realised that operating an infant for removal of such a big tumour would be risky. Hence we decided to first treat the tumour to reduce its size before going in for an operation."

The doctor put her through four cycles of chemotherapy that lasted a few weeks. At the end of it, the tumour reduced to about five cm size. Encouraged, the doctors decided to operate the infant.

She was again assessed for surgery and the CT scan showed that the tumour was small and operable.

Suhani was operated up by a team of doctors, including surgeons and oncologists, on November 4. The liver 'resection' operation lasted six hours, which saw surgeons removing about half a kg of her liver and the tumour.

About 60 per cent of her liver along with her tumour was 'resected'. However, the remaining part of the liver was healthy, doctors said.

Hepatoblastoma is a very rare cancerous tumour that originates in the liver. Dr Deepa said such cases occur in one in 10 lakh children. The disease primarily affects children from infancy to about five years of age.