

ASIAN AGE

2 OCT, 2007

M

Saving lives via platelet donation, the first in Asia

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai, Oct. 1: The "Life Saver's Club" that was launched on Monday in Mumbai is the first club in Asia to arrange for the donation of blood-platelets to critically ailing patients who need them as a curative first step. This initiative of launching the club has been taken by the "Doctor's for You", an organisation working in association with the State Blood Transfusion Council and "Think Foundation", a non-governmental organisation.

Under normal conditions, the ratio of an approximate 325 lakh platelets per millicube of human blood is fine enough to help blood clot. When this platelet-count falls below one lakh owing to some ailment, the person bleeds excessively, said Dr Ravindrakanth Singh, the chief co-ordinator of DfY. The requirement for platelets increase when a patient is attacked by diseases like leptospirosis and dengue.

An awareness drive for platelet donors was conducted for the first time in Mumbai a month back, and around 50 donors had volunteered to come forward within a month. The human body can regenerate

Under normal conditions, the ratio of an approximate 325 lakh platelets per millicube of human blood is fine enough to help blood clot. When this platelet-count falls below one lakh owing to some ailment, the person bleeds excessively

scarcity no longer exists, because donating platelets is now possible for maladies that require them. A donor needs to be over 55 kgs and fall in the age-group of 18 to 55 years.

"Lots of medicos and doctors are still unaware that a donor can donate platelets about 24 times in a year. The lost platelets are regained in the next 24 to 48 hours, and the donor can repeat the 'act' in the next week. We call the registered donors accordingly," said Dr Singh, and added, "The donated platelets can't be preserved beyond five days". The two organisations plan to carry this