

# Emotional reunion as stem cell recipient meets donor

DC CORRESPONDENT  
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Seventeen-year-old Ankit Tulsibhai Vaghasia folded his hands with reverence before wording a "thank you" in his Gujarati accented Hindi to 24-year-old Ms Jinal Patel at the Apollo Speciality Cancer Hospital here on Wednesday.

Had it not been for Ms Patel, Ankit might have been counting his last days as cancer continued to ravage him. What surprised the gathering on World Cancer Day on Wednesday was that Ms Patel did not even know Ankit - this was the first time she met the boy - though her efforts a year back gave him a new lease of life.

Ankit, a resident of Surat, had been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a



(From left) Dr Jose Easow, senior consultant, medical oncologist, Apollo Speciality Hospital, Raghu Rajagopal, co-founder & CEO, DATRI, recipient Ankit Vaghasia, donor Jinal Patel and Dr Revathi Raj, senior consultant, pediatric hematology, Apollo Speciality Hospital, in the city. — DC

form of blood cancer, four years back. His leukemia did not respond to chemotherapy and doctors started looking for other options.

Ankit says, "My papa just told the doctors to do whatever, but to save me." The doctors tried using stem cells but in spite of having an extended family, there

was no donor match found for Ankit. And that is when Ms Patel came in the picture.

Ms Patel had registered with DATRI's voluntary blood stem cell registry years back. A patient in need of stem cell anywhere in the country just needs to check the registry and find a match. ■Turn to P4



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