

Call for greater awareness on stem cell donation



Dr Revathy Raj, senior consultant, paediatric haemato-oncologist at Apollo Speciality Hospital and Dr Lakshman, senior consultant, Haematology, Apollo Speciality Hospital, with Haribabu, who donated blood stem cells for a blood cancer patient on World Cancer Day in Chennai yesterday.

NT Bureau

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The importance of blood stem cell donation can't be overemphasised, said Raghu Rajagopal, co-founder and CEO of DATRI.

'More than 700 patients are waiting for a match at the moment. Take this first step to save a life, register today and you could possibly be the match that some patient is waiting for,' Rajagopal said while speaking at a function organised to mark World Cancer Day during which a donation was facilitated by DATRI, India's leading blood stem cell registry at Apollo Speciality Hospital in Teynampet.

Mentioning about a patient looking

for a donor, Rajagopal said, more registrations will help people like Amit Bag, who is looking for a donor to save his four-year-old, suffering from blood cancer.

Speaking about blood stem cell donation and need to raise awareness on the same, senior consultant, paediatric haemato-oncologist Dr Revathy Raj said, 'Blood stem cell donation is unique as every HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) type, a marker which is used to match blood stem cells, is unique. Unlike blood donation which has fewer blood types, HLA types are numerous making it difficult for a patient to find a match/donor.'