

HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI SATHYA SAI MOBILE HOSPITAL SERVICE (APRIL 2015)

Cancer Uterine Cervix – Screening Service

Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital (SSSMH) has reached yet another milestone having achieved the distinction of screening 13000 women for detection of Cervical Cancer. Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology of SSSMH has been engaged in screening village women for Cervical Cancer since June 2009 using the WHO approved Visual Screening with Acetic Acid Method (VIA). They have the distinction of being trained by the Prevention International: No Cervical Cancer (PINCC) an international organization dedicated to improving women's health globally by educating health care workers in Cervical Cancer Prevention Programmes under the renowned Director Dr. Rhoda Nussbaum. The procedure involves staining the Cervix by Acetic acid and looking for Pre-cancerous lesions in the form of Aceto white patches. Such patches are Biopsied and sent for Histopathology examination. Pap's smear is also done and the slides are sent for Cytology.



The reports may be normal or show chronic cervicitis or pre-cancerous changes in the form of CIN-I, II or III (CIN – Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia). While CIN-I patients are followed up every 6 months, CIN-II patients usually undergo Cryosurgery and CIN-III patients undergo Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) for abnormal Cervical Cell changes. Cases reported as Carcinoma are sent to Oncology centers with the block slide and report. They are followed up after they come back from the Oncology centers



During March 2015, 227 women were screened of whom 30 women tested positive. While 23 women underwent Cervical Biopsy and 7 had Pap smears. 2 women had carcinoma in SITU, 3 had frank carcinoma and 6 women had changes of CIN-I. During April 2015, 255 women were screened of whom 29 tested positive and cervical biopsy was done for 25 women and the reports are awaited.

This is no mean achievement particularly as women in villages are apprehensive in undergoing such examination and procedure as they apparently are in good health with no symptoms of being carrier of such deadly virus. The fact that women in large numbers undergo this procedure at the mobile hospital speaks of the goodwill generated by the services rendered by the SSSMH in the villages during the last decade. The SSSMH has a team of over 30 Gynecologists, who come by turns to engage in this selfless service. The Department is headed by Dr. Susheela, MD, an eminent Gynecologist, who also leads the team which does surgeries in SSS General Hospital for Mobile hospital patients. Special mention needs to be made of Dr. Shakuntala, a Gynecologist from Tanuku who comes every month along with Dr. Susheela.

This service is particularly useful for asymptomatic women who tests positive, as early diagnosis helps prevention of mortality. Incidentally, Cancer Cervix ranks first in the list of cancers causing mortality in women, in India. Regular screening ensures pre cancerous changes and early stage cervical cancers are detected and treated early before it turns fatal. The SSSMH has been able to save precious lives of several village women who also happen to be breadwinners which would otherwise have been catastrophic for their families.

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