



ADVANCED TREATMENTS HELP PREMIE

ONE-year-old Tarini was born prematurely when her mother Shobha suffered a premature preterm rupture of the membrane (PPROM) in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Both mother and child are healthy today just because of the advanced treatments of today.

Shobha was immediately rushed to a hospital where the doctors administered medicines and advised her bed rest. This kind of rupture may heal spontaneously sometimes, but in most cases of PPRM, labour begins within 48 hours.

Shobha had to be rushed to the hospital the very next day because she continued to suffer from unbearable pain. Tarini was born via a c-section and weighed only 900 grams. Her chances of survival were low and in addition she risked problems with brain and lung function and the possibility of vision loss. Breathing support was provided for more than a month.

"Babies who are born preterm have problem with breathing because their lungs are not mature. Lack of proper lung function can hamper their brain functioning resulting in low IQ. They have to be put on a ventilator and CPAP machine to support breathing," says Dr Rajeev Chhabra, senior consultant, neonatology, Artemis Health Institute. Since these babies are not able to suck properly, they are given nutrition through intravenous fluids. They are also at high risk of infections due to low immunity.

Tarini's stay at the hospital was prolonged because of subsequent infections. She also had to undergo retinopathy of prematurity to check the risk of vision loss. The condition involves four stages. While monitoring is done during the first and second stage, laser therapy is used to correct any vision deficit in last two stages. Tarini was given laser therapy and though her parents had a tough time dealing with all the complications, they feel fortunate that their daughter is growing as a normal child now.

(Ends)