**Critical COVID – 19 patient recovers well post administration of Plasma Therapy; weaned off ventilator support**

**New Delhi, April 20th, 2020:** The first patient who was administered Plasma Therapy on compassionate grounds at Max Hospital, Saket, East Wing has shown positive results and was recently weaned off ventilator support**.**

The 49-year-old, male patient from Delhi who had tested COVID positive on April 4th, was admitted at the COVID facility at Max Hospital, Saket, East Block with moderate symptoms and a history of fever and respiratory issues, the same day.

His condition deteriorated during the next few days and he soon required external oxygen to maintain saturation. He soon developed pneumonia with Type I respiratory failure and had to be put on ventilator support on April 8th. When the patient showed no improvement in his condition, his family requested the hospital for administration of plasma therapy on compassionate grounds, a first of its kind treatment modality that was used for this disease in India.

The family came forward to arrange a donor for extracting plasma. The donor had recovered from the infection (confirmed by two consecutive negative reports) three weeks ago and again tested COVID-19 negative at the time of donation along with other standard tests to rule out infections like Hep B, Hep C and HIV. The 49-year-old critically ill patient was administered fresh plasma as a treatment modality as a side-line to standard treatment protocols on the night of April 14th, Tuesday.

After receiving the treatment, the patient showed progressive improvement and by fourth day, was weaned off ventilator support on the morning of April 18th, Saturday and continued on supplementary oxygen, thereafter. He has been shifted to a room with round-the-clock monitoring at present. He has started taking oral feed since Sunday and is faring well.

Speaking on the success of the first case administered under Plasma Therapy, **Dr Sandeep Budhiraja, Group Medical Director – Max Healthcare & Senior Director - Institute of Internal Medicine,** *“We are delighted that the therapy worked well in his case, opening a new treatment opportunity during these challenging times. But it is important that we also understand that Plasma Therapy is no magic bullet. During the patient’s treatment at Max Hospital, Saket, other standard treatment protocols were followed and we can say that Plasma Therapy could have worked as a Catalyst in speeding up his recovery. We cannot attribute 100% recovery to Plasma Therapy only, as there are multiple factors which carved his path to recovery.”*

He further added, *“In a country like India, a therapy of such kind has a good potential to help COVID patients who have disease severity which fits into moderate to severe category. Government regulations should work towards making it more accessible for hospitals across the country to be able to use it. One donor can donate 400ml of Plasma which can save two lives, as 200ml is sufficient to treat one patient.”*

The patient is now doing well and his two consecutive COVID tests have come negative.

**About Max Healthcare:**

Max Healthcare (MHC) is the Country’s leading comprehensive provider of standardised, seamless and international-class healthcare services. It is committed to the highest standards of medical and service excellence, patient care, scientific and medical education.

Max Healthcare has 13 facilities in North India, offering services in over 30 medical disciplines. Of this, 10 facilities are located in Delhi & NCR and the others in Mohali, Bathinda and Dehradun. The Max network includes state-of-the-art tertiary care hospitals in Saket, Patparganj, Vaishali, Shalimar Bagh, Mohali, Bathinda and Dehradun, secondary care hospital in Gurgaon and Day Care Centres at Pitampura, Noida, Lajpat Nagar and Panchsheel Park. The Super Speciality Hospitals in Mohali and Bathinda are under PPP arrangement with the Government of Punjab.

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