

Child contracts HIV, parents blame hospital

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Parents of a two-year-old girl from Coimbatore claimed that their child contracted HIV through blood transfusion at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, where she was admitted for cardiac treatment. While tests confirmed that the child is HIV positive, hospital officials claim it is not because of the transfusion at their facility.

The child's father says the blood transfusion happened on July 12, 2018. "The doctors stopped the transfusion midway, saying the blood had been collected from an 'old man' and was wrongly given to my child. They then discharged her the very next day and forced us to undergo treatment as an outpatient," he says. "Later, we noticed lumps all over her body. We took her back to CMCH on February 6 and they referred us to their ICTC centre. Test results confirmed that our child was HIV positive." Later, the CMCH doctors asked the parents and the child's twin brother to undergo tests. "None of us have HIV except our daughter. It is clear that she contracted the virus through blood transfusion."

Doctors claim the blood was screened before being donated. After the issue came to light, the donated blood samples were sent to CMCH, Vellore for tests which allegedly confirmed it was not HIV positive. The State Health Department has initiated an inquiry.

