

# Demand for inquiry into HIV infection of two-year-old

## STAFF REPORTER

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### CMCH Dean denies allegations of parent

A parent from Tiruchi on Tuesday alleged that his two-year-old daughter tested positive for HIV after she underwent treatments in at least three Government hospitals.

The man claimed that the child was not treated at any private hospital since her birth at Government Hospital in Tiruchi in March 2017 and neither the child's parents nor her twin tested positive for HIV.

Speaking to presspersons along with V.P. Sarathy of Coimbatore Human Rights Forum and I. Aseervatham of People's Watch, he demanded an investigation into the manner in which the child came to be infected.

### Low weight

According to the complainant, an employee of a powerloom in Tirupur, his daughter remained under treatment in Tiruchi GH for over a month after birth due to low weight.

### Vaccination card

As per the vaccination card of the child, she was given various shots and booster doses from May 31, 2017 to August 10, 2018.

He said the baby was taken to Government Hospital, Tirupur, on July 11, 2018 due to breathlessness.

### Cardiac problems

“The child was referred to Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) stating that she had cardiac problems. When admitted at CMCH, the doctors transfused blood as the blood count was low. She was discharged after two

days and doctors said the defect will be corrected as the child grows up.”

He further added: “She was taken to CMCH on February 6, 2019 and a test done on February 8 found her HIV positive,” he claimed.

Later, the child's parents and twin brother were also tested and the results were negative.

When contacted, Coimbatore Medical College Hospital Dean B. Asokan said the baby had bronchopneumonia when admitted on July 11, 2018 and a congenital heart defect.

### **RBC transfusion**

“Among other treatments, the child was administered 50 ml of Red Blood Cell (RBC), not the whole blood, as her father alleged. The RBC was separated from the blood collected from a donor on July 4. The blood was separated into components after doing all the necessary tests. Also, HIV will not spread through RBC transfusion,” said Dr. Asokan, refuting the allegations.