

# City docs give new life to Tanzanian man

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** A 50-year-old Tanzanian citizen, Sarehe Joseph Athanasi, came to a city hospital with a complex problem in his main aorta or main blood vessel. Nearly 50-cm of the vessel had dilated and needed an emergency change. The danger in changing such a long piece of the main blood vessel was the threat of compromising blood supply to the vital organs, especially when two arteries supplying blood to his intestines originated from the aorta. Two city-based doctors evolved a hybrid procedure, and completed the highly life-threatening surgery with success, thus saving the Tanzanian citizen's life.

Cardiologist Dr Sameer Dani and and cardio-vascular surgeon Dr Bhupesh Shah of city's Apollo Hospital treated Sarehe partly



(L to R) Dr Bhupesh Shah and Dr Sameer Dani with Sarehe Athnasi after the surgery

through surgery, and partly through a procedure wherein three artificial grafts were inserted in the blood vessel with the help of a catheter to create an artificial artery within the diseased artery

for the blood to pass easily without any blockages!

Initially, Dr Shah bypassed the intestinal arteries so that even if the main artery was blocked, intestines would get blood through the

bypass grafts. Then Dr Dani undertook the job of putting in three artificial grafts into the diseased artery through the leg artery and creating an artery within the main artery!

"The surgery was extremely challenging and lasted six hours. Usually, the aortic aneurysms we see are 15-20 cm in length, but this aneurysm was huge. It was 50 cm in length and pretty wide" said Dr Dani.

Sarehe is currently recuperating in the Apollo Hospital and would be kept under observation for one week. "Sarehe had come with primary complaint of back pain as the massive aneurysm was putting pressure on his back. He is a lucky man to have got his problem addressed which could have ruptured, and proved life threatening", Dr Dani said.