

Girl born with 8 limbs undergoes surgery

Lakshmi looks on at the Sparsh Hospital in Bangalore, India, Monday, Nov. 5th, 2007. Doctors began operating on Nov. 6th, on the two-year-old girl born with four arms and four legs, in an extensive surgery that they hope will leave the girl with a normal anatomy, a hospital official said. Revered by some in her village as the reincarnation of a Hindu goddess, a 2-year-old girl born with four arms and four legs underwent surgery to leave her with a normal body.



The girl named Lakshmi is joined to a "parasitic twin" that stopped developing in the mother's womb. The surviving fetus absorbed the limbs, kidneys and other body parts of the undeveloped fetus. A team of 30 doctors was removing the extra limbs and organs, surgery that if successful would give her a good chance to live past adolescence. They have already separated the fused spines and the next step will be to remove the extra limbs and the rest of the "parasite," said Dr. Sharan Patil, the orthopedic surgeon leading the operation. "As of now, the child has been responding very well," Patil said several hours into the operation.

Children born with deformities in deeply traditional rural parts of India, like the remote village in the northern state of Bihar that Lakshmi comes from, are often viewed as reincarnated gods. The young girl is no different -- she is named after the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth and her parents say she is revered in her village. "Everybody considers her a goddess at our village," said her father, Shambhu. "All this expenditure has happened to make her normal. So far, everything is fine."

Others tried to make money from Lakshmi. Her parents kept her in hiding after a circus apparently tried to buy the girl, they said. The complications for Lakshmi's surgery is complicated: the two spines are joined, she has four kidneys, entangled nerves, two stomach cavities and two chest cavities. She cannot stand up or walk.

"It's a big team effort of a lot of skilled surgeons who will be putting their heart and soul into solving the problem of Lakshmi," Patil said earlier in the day. "It's going to take many, many hours on a continuous basis to operate on the baby. So, these issues definitely make it complex." Patil put the risk of losing Lakshmi between 20 and 25 percent. Doctors have said the best case scenario after the surgery is that she will walk and function as a normal child. Doctors at Sparsh Hospital in Bangalore, where the girl is undergoing surgery, said she is popular among the staff and patients. An estimated cost of over US\$625,000 was paid entirely by the hospital's charitable wing, the Sparsh Foundation. "She's a cute girl," Dr. Patil said. "She's very playful and gets along well with others."

Within a week of the surgery, doctors held a press conference showing Lakshmi being carried by her father. She was in the hospital for a month after the operation. Afterwards, she and her family moved to Jodhpur, where Lakshmi and her brother joined a school for disabled children and her father got a job at the school's farm.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakshmi_Tatma

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-534929/Indian-baby-born-faces-doing-month-birth.html>

See also the Hensel twins: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K57IcN9DWXo>