

Trials of Scrambler therapy machine begins.

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CUTTACK, April 4 -- The Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre has begun to press for establishment of scrambler therapy unit to provide more effective pain relief to cancer patients.

The premier cancer institute of the region has commenced trial sessions using the scrambler therapy machine that produces bioelectric stimulation to block the pain messages to the brain and thereby alleviate the agony of the patient. The results have been highly successful.

"We tried the therapy on about 40 cases, cancer and non-cancer, in the Pain Clinic with more than 95 per cent having very high degree of relief.

Most of them, who had come writhing in pain, went off to sleep during the treatment session and had to be aroused to let the next patient in," Prof Sukadev Nayak, head of Anaesthesiology, said.

The nodes of the machine are attached to five identified points in the patient depending upon the nature and region of pain. They emit bioelectric stimulants, which block message of pain to the brain and it goes into a state of confusion. As the brain hangs up, the body's internal pain relief mechanisms get into work and secrete chemicals to curb the pain sensations.

"The therapy is safe and without side-effects associated with pain medications.

A 10-day session would provide relief for more than a month to the patient.

It can be utilised to treat all kinds of chronic and acute pain conditions," Prof Nayak said.

The therapy was invented in 1998 but was patented in the US in 2008. In India there is only one fully functional facility at AIIMS, New Delhi. There are, however, demonstrations going on in four zones at present.

With unit costing about Rs 25 lakh, the AHRCC is hopeful of getting it installed so as to provide better pain relief services to the needy. It has written to the Government in this regard.

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