

Doctors fix 14 screws on elderly's spine in rare surgery, get him mobile again

Retired lawyer Ibrahim Mullaji has become one of the first cases wherein 14 screws were used to fix the fractures in his spine via the rare MIS conducted in Parel's Global hospital recently.

After being bedridden for two months, a rare minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has finally put an 82-year-old man back on his feet.

Retired lawyer Ibrahim Mullaji has become one of the first cases wherein

The Jogeshwari resident, who had been suffering from ankylosing spondylitis, had a fall in November 2014. While he remained mobile for two months, his condition deteriorated in January; his family realised then that he had three major fractures in his spinal cord.

His son Samir, a mechanical engineer, said, "My father didn't tell us about his fall. It was at the end of January when we got to know about it. My father is an extremely independent person and didn't like being restricted to bed."

While at least three spine surgeons refused to operate on Ibrahim because of his age and frail body structure, the family finally found hope in Dr Vishal Peshattiwar, endoscopic and minimally invasive spine surgeon. "He was very fragile. He also had very low albumin levels and fluid accumulation in chest. An open surgery with a foot long incision would have been fatal for him. Hence, we decided to go for minimally invasive surgery," said Peshattiwar.

He added that Ibrahim's MRI scan showed three fractures in which the chest vertebrae fracture was leading to paralysis. "We had to urgently take him up for surgery as his condition was getting worse. Via MIS, with skin-deep incisions, we managed to fix all 14 screws. Ibrahim showed tremendous will power and recovered well," said Peshattiwar.

While doctors are getting ready to present his case in international medical journals and at conferences, Samir said the family is happy that he has got his independence back. "He was dependent on others for his day-to-day needs. It has been one-and-a-half months since surgery, he now walks of his own," said Samir.