

# Institute starts paediatric eye cancer service

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MANY achievements apart, the three-year-old city-based LV Prasad Eye Institute has added two more things to its list on the anniversary day today with opening of a full-fledged paediatric eye cancer service and learning centre for eye surgeons 'to minimise human errors'.

While the 'multi-modal approach' of the oncology services provided at the specialised paediatric unit will treat paediatric cancer cases like 'retino blastoma' - saving the life, eyes and ultimately vision of the patients, the learning centre will impart basic skills of the 'hand-eye-coordination' for young surgeons in simulated environment so that they can assess their abilities and learn accordingly.

"With quality patient care, education and training, research and community services, the local LVPEI aspires to be a 'centre of excellence' by 2012 and keen on participating in capacity building of eye care personnel in the State," said Director Dr Tarapasad Das.

Speaking to this paper, LVPEI Chairman Dr GN Rao said as "retino blastoma affects many children in India, the new centre will cater to five lakh kids in Orissa. Named after Miriam

Hyman, a victim of London bombings in July 2005, the centre will replicate the success story of its parent Hyderabad centre which received an overwhelming response."

Regarding higher learning options at LVPEI, Dr Rao said the Global Leaders Lecture Series, currently conducted once in a month through videoconferencing will be a weekly affair in the near future to equip doctors with all the aspects of eye care management.

Prof. Amod Gupta of PGI Chandigarh, first visiting faculty at the institute, said, 'Skill enhancement' among the medical faculties can be done through the process of 'learning from each other' and not only from foreign trips as considered 'vital' by many. "The 'LVPEI experience' of this unique concept can also be introduced in other institutes," he suggested.

While the in-charge of the paediatric oncology service Dr Suryasnata Rath said, "By curing a cancerous eye in a child we can assure another six or seven decades of productive years in case of an individual," learning centre in-charge Dr Sujata Das said the institute is planning a hands-on programme 'SCOPE' (short course in ophthalmic skill enhancement) from the second week of November.