

# 2-year-old burn victim to have final operation in February

Supriya Naik, whose hand and palm had fused into one whole mass, was operated upon at the free surgery camp organised at Airoli Burns Centre; doctors say that she will be operated upon again in the next camp

November 21, 2013

NAVI MUMBAI

Neha LM Tripathi

Follow @MID\_DAY

Share Like 0

Tweet 1

Pin it

+1

Parents of the Odisha girl who was treated at the recent free surgical camp Operation Restore have more reasons to rejoice. After surgeons performed a second operation on two-year-old Supriya Naik last week, they have decided to go for the final operation on the baby's right hand in the month of February. After her operation last week, Supriya has shown visible improvements.

15 MID DAY METRO > 14.11.2013 . MUMBAI, www.mid-day.com

## FREE SURGERY HELPS 2-YEAR-OLD GIRL GET HER HAND BACK

The girl's palm and forearm had fused to become one due to burn injuries; free surgical camp ensured that she underwent the operation

### THE SUNSHINE STORY

RICHA PINTO

richa@mid-day.com

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl who had lost her limb movement returned to normal life after doctors at a burns care centre in Navi Mumbai performed a surgery on her hand on Wednesday.

The girl, Supriya Naik, had burnt her hand in her village in Odisha, when she was only two months old. The incident

occurred in January 2011 when the child was sleeping on a mattress. Since there was no electricity, the parents had lit a candle. Unfortunately, the candle fell on the mattress, which caught fire. The baby's right hand was burnt because of the flames and she suffered 25 per cent burn injuries.

Her father Udhav Naik, who is a labourer at a construction site, said, "We rushed her to a primary health care centre,

which told us to take her to a hospital for further treatment. We took her to a hospital in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where they quoted a huge sum for the treatment. Since I barely make Rs 5,000 a month, we returned without getting her treated."

Because the burnt hand was not attended to, the girl's palm and forearm fused together, to form one mass of flesh. This is called a contracture. Naik came to work at a construction site in Virar three months ago where the baby was identified by a Mumbai Mobile Creches, an NGO that looks after the children of construction workers while they toil away at their work sites. The organisation referred Supriya for Operation Restore — a free surgical camp



LENDING A HELPING HAND: Supriya with her parents before the surgery. Her right hand had become one whole mass of flesh, with the palm and fingers fused with the forearm.

held under the banner of Rotary District 3140, in association with the Airoli National Burns Centre.

#### The surgery

The surgery on Wednesday took over three hours and the contracture was removed. The girl has been advised to stay in the hospital for a minimum of 10 days.

Doctors treating Supriya

said that the accident had caused complete distortion of her right hand. Dr S M Keswani, medical director of Airoli's National Burns Centre said, "Such a surgery would normally cost about Rs 1 lakh. But after knowing the girl's condition, I felt the need for performing this surgery. The right hand for most of us is the most dominant part of the body, and because of the injuries, the

entire hand had become one mass of flesh. The girl is one of the youngest burn patients we have had at this hospital so far."

Yashu Kamat, director of community services, Rotary Club of Deonar said, "Her parents had probably given up hope, but thanks to the day care centre who referred her to the camp, she can expect her condition to improve."

MID DAY report on November 14

"I am happy that my daughter is able to keep her right hand straight, which she couldn't before the operations. We had no hope that she could be treated so well. However, we are waiting to see her cured completely," said Udhav Naik, who makes a living working at construction sites. MID DAY had reported on how the girl underwent the three-hour operation last week.



Good news: Supriya Naik after her operation. She will undergo one final surgery in February

Supriya had burnt her hand in her village in Odisha, when she was two months old. The incident took place in January 2011, during a prolonged power outage. As it was getting dark, the parents had lit a candle in their house. While the baby was asleep, the candle fell onto her mattress.

The flames spread almost instantly, charring the child's right hand and a part of the back of her head. The girl received 25 percent burns. Since the parents didn't have the monetary resources to get her treated, the girl was not attended to, due to which her right hand had undergone contracture, rendering her palm and forearm to get fused to each other.

The family shifted to Virar three months ago, where Mumbai Mobile Creches, an NGO that looks after the children of construction site workers, noticed Supriya and referred her to Operation Restore, a free surgical camp initiated by Rotary District 3140 in association with National Burns Centre at Airoli.

"Her severe condition could have been avoided if primary treatment would have been provided to the patient on a timely basis. However, her condition has improved and she will be cured after the final operation that will be performed after three months," said Dr S M Keswani, medical director, National Burns Centre. He added, "It is sad that most doctors of the state and the country are not updated about what should be done immediately after a burn patient is brought to them." Dr Keswani informed that the patient would be discharged within a week, after which she will have to be brought to the hospital for dressing every 15 days.