

City's first skin bank

Rotary Club and National Burns Centre join hands

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The city will get its first skin donation bank by June this year.

This will be the third of its kind in the country after the first two skin banks were set up in Mumbai.

Plastic surgeon Dr Shrirang Pandit, who is behind the initiative along with others, said the bank will be set up at the Surya Hospital. It is a joint venture by the Rotary Club of Khadki and National Burns Centre, Mumbai.

The announcement of the skin bank was made at the pre-launch meeting on Sunday.

Dr Pandit will be accompa-

nied by a skin harvesting and processing team, which will help in getting the skin removed from the donor's body, Rotary Club president Ravi Nath told *DNA*.

He added that special programmes will be undertaken to create awareness about cadaveric donation of the skin.

Director of Euro Skin Bank in Netherlands Dr Bod Wesley, who also attended Sunday's meet, said that public awareness about cadaveric donation is still a long way to go.

"It took me 33 years to get only 200 donors in Amsterdam whereas, I hope that in Pune, it will not take much time to convince the people about the need for skin donation," he said. He added that the myths associated with skin donation, especially religious, is another problem area. He said that



ONE STEP AHEAD:
(Left) Dr Bod Wesley and Dr SM Keswani

donor or cadaveric skin can be very useful in preparing for the autografting of chronic wounds. "We need to work on social awareness and educate people about skin banking and transplant," he said, explaining that greater emphasis should be laid on skin donation due to increasing number of burns and trauma cases worldwide.

According to Wesley, "In India, 40% of the burns patient needs at least two skin donors on an average. This shows the amount of demand for dona-

THE HI-TECH FACILITIES

The skin bank in Pune will have a skin harvesting team and a storage facility processing team

A hi-tech ambulance for surgical removal of skin graft will be made available

Donated skin can be preserved for more than three years

Donated skin is kept under 2 to 4 degrees Celsius temperature

tion here."

Nath said an initial amount of Rs5 lakh will be invested on the project, adding that Rs25 lakh will also be spent to procure a hi-tech ambulance for surgical removal of skin graft.

Director of National Burns Centre Dr SM Keswani said similar initiatives are also being planned at Solapur, Aurangabad and Akola. Keswani said the Euro Skin Bank of Holland will provide suggestions for the initiative. "Dr Wesley will pay a visit to the Pune skin bank once a year."