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Monday, February 26, 2007

[Page One](#) | [Body & Mind](#) | [All Headlines](#)**NEWS****Cooker handle wedged into woman's head***Team of surgeons carries out series of operations to save Thengil Tarabai's life, unable to rescue one eye***Express News Service**

Pune, February 25: Little did Thengil Tarabai — a resident of Uralikanchan cooking an afternoon meal for her family — realise that she would be wheeled off into the emergency ward of Jehangir Hospital just moments later. Worse, with the handle of the pressure cooker lodged firmly in the head and the lid protruding out of her eye cavity!

In a freak accident on February 19, the cooker literally blew its lid off. The enormous pressure it at her face at extremely high velocity. The impact drove the handle through the right eye, up through the brain and causing horrific damage. The velocity of this projectile was so high that the handle broke through the top of the skull and lodged under the skin.

Dr Sachin Gandhi, a brain and spine surgeon at Jehangir hospital who operated upon her, initially tried to create a passageway as breathing was critical. A tracheostomy was performed and the patient was resuscitated in the neuro-ICU after which she was taken up for emergency craniotomy to remove the handle. Tarabai's condition worsened by the minute thanks to a swelling in her brain.

"After 5 hours of surgery, we succeeded in removing the blood clots and the cooker handle. We have repaired the fractured skull bone," said Gandhi, who was assisted by plastic surgeon Dr Daddi retinal surgeon Dr Salil Gadkari. The initial emergency management was carried out by Dr Manisha Bobade and her team. "The patient was in shock, bleeding profusely and because the lid was covering the face it was a great challenge to manage her breathing and very difficult to carry out the CT scan," said Dr Manisha.

"Her eye was damaged beyond repair but she survived the surgery, which was a huge achievement on part of the entire operating team and those who had

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initially stabilised her condition,” added Dr Gadkari.

The next phase was equally critical and Tarabai was promptly shifted to the neuro-ICU where a team of neuro-intensivists monitored her continuously for the next 96 hours.

Four days later, she regained consciousness. She was able to open her good eye, move her limbs and communicate that she was feeling “OK”.

“We have no references in medical literature of an injury of this extent and nature, where a metal object — seven inches long — had entered the brain at such tremendous velocity,” said Sudhir Diggikar, CEO of the hospital. “We have no references of something’s that caused such horrific damage and yet been so successfully managed.”

Kudos to the medical team!

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