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## Bone marrow transplant on rise in Kol to treat blood disease patients

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**Kolkata:** The number of bone marrow transplants (BMTs) in Kolkata is rising and it is proving to be a boon for the patients battling with ailments like leukaemia, myeloma and other blood and immune system diseases that affect the bone marrow.

In Bengal, Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute (SGCCRI) has reached the milestone of 100 BMT procedures. According to Indian Society for Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Bengal contributes about 8% to 10% of all BMTs done in the country. There are at least eight BMT centres in Bengal. NRS Medical College and Institute of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine

### BMT UNITS IN BENGAL

**> Hospitals in Bengal the have BMT units |** NRS Hospital, Medical College Hospital Kolkata, SGCCRI, Tata Medical Centre, Apollo Multispecialty Hospital, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cancer Hospital, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital and HCG Eko Cancer Centre



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(IHTM) at Medical College Hospital are the only two government institutes that have the BMT units. While the first one has conducted 94 such procedures since 2009, the latter has done 65 plus procedures since 2016.

"It was the vision and dream of our founder, Dr Saroj Gupta, to make this institute a comprehensive cancer cent-

re, including setting up a state-of-the-art BMT unit. We are happy that we have achieved the 100 BMTs while celebrating our 50th anniversary," said Anjan Gupta, SGCCRI honorary secretary.

"SGCCRI has a dedicated BMT unit and ICU with a multidisciplinary team including oncologists, cardiologists and nurses. Before the procedure,

proper evaluation is done and appropriate follow up is done to ensure the best outcome," said onco surgeon, Arnab Gupta, medical director. A BMT is a procedure involving infusion of healthy blood forming stem cells to replace the diseased bone marrow.

The Thakurpur cancer hospital started its programme in 2013 and is currently performing only autologous transplants and is working on to include allogeneic in its their transplant programme soon.

The other hospitals in Bengal that have BMT units include Tata Medical Centre, Apollo Multispecialty Hospital, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cancer Hospital, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital and HCG Eko Cancer Centre.