



THE TIMES OF INDIA



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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

UTTAR PRADESH

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

Genome sequencing a milestone in TB cure

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Lucknow: Whole genome sequencing (WGS) to test for tuberculosis can help save lives as crucial time is saved in the process. As a result, patients get the right combination of medicines at the earliest, said pulmonologist Rajendra Prasad, director, medical education and head of pulmonary medicine at Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital.

He was speaking at a panel discussion organised by startup HaystackAnalytics where pulmonologists from the city spoke on efforts to end the TB epidemic in India.

Others on the panel were Dr BP Singh, director of Midland Health Care and Research Center, Dr Ravi Bhaskar, professor of pulmonary medicine at Career Institute of Medical Sciences & Hospitals and Dr Rajneesh Kumar Srivastava, consultant pulmonologist at Medanta Hospital.

"TB is fully curable with the right kind of treatment. The WSG test will tell us of drug sensitivity or resistance in one step instead of multiple



Dr BP Singh (left) and Dr Rajendra Prasad during a panel discussion

ones as of now and correct treatment can begin from day 1," said Dr Prasad.

Dr Singh added, "The traditional method took more than 2 months to tell us about a patient's drug sensitivity. This test takes two weeks." Genome sequencing is a milestone in TB treatment and government hospitals will adopt it soon, added Dr Prasad.

Dr Prasad, also vice-chairman of the national task force on the TB control programme, lauded the UP government on its adoption of technology in the management of various diseases, including Covid. Co-founder and CEO of HaystackAnalytics Dr Anirvan Chatterjee said, "Whole genome sequencing can detect TB and predict DST profiles at a much faster rate than existing tests.



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INCLUSIVE OF LUCKNOW TIMES (CITY ONLY) AND SPECIAL PULLOUT

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Era docs correct spinal deformity

Doctors of the Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital (ELMCH) successfully corrected spinal deformity in a 23-year-old male patient. "The patient from Agra was admitted to the hospital on July 6 with deformed front-to-back curve of the spine, which is called kyphotic deformity," said Dr Abhinav Srivastava, spinal surgeon, ELMCH. "On July 15, we corrected the deformity under neuro-monitoring by opening the spinal area," he added.