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Cover Story

Surgery Vs semi: Patients pick big game over knife

Doctors across city hospitals flooded with requests to reschedule medical procedures slotted for Wednesday

Lata Mishra ★★★★★

Posted On Monday, March 28, 2011 at 03:44:22 AM

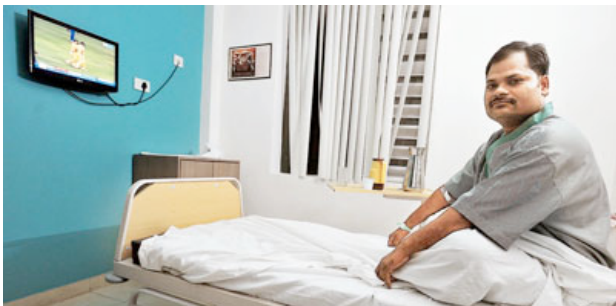
While just about everybody may be looking for an inventive excuse to bunk work on Wednesday and watch the [India](#)-Pakistan World Cup semi-final, some of the busiest doctors in private hospitals have no such problems.

They are, in fact, happily accepting requests from their patients to postpone their surgeries which were scheduled for that day.

Such is the hype around the match, that some patients don't mind paying through their nose for deluxe rooms which come with attached televisions- in case the surgery cannot be rescheduled.

At Hiranandani hospital in Powai, doctors said that so far 15 surgeries slated for Wednesday have been postponed on the request of patients. Of these, six are hip and knee-replacement surgeries.

Santosh Shinde



Akhilesh Chaturvedi has requested for a rescheduling of his spine surgery as he is not willing to miss the Indo-Pak match

Dr Pradeep Bhosle of the Powai hospital said that requests for rescheduling these surgeries are being accepted because these come under the category of planned surgeries and are not emergency ones.

A typical cricket fanatic, 35-year-old sales executive Akhilesh Chaturvedi has requested his doctors at Kalyan's Fortis hospital to operate on his spine on Monday. Chaturvedi, who has already been admitted to the hospital for preliminary investigations, has made it clear that in case he has to stay in the hospital on Wednesday, his room should be fitted with a television.

Chaturvedi's doctor Sunil Kutty said that he has received three other similar requests. As the craze around the do-or-die Mohali match reaches a fevered pitch, patients are happily sacrificing hard-won appointments with their busy surgeons.

Renowned gynaecological surgeon Dr Nandita Palshetkar, who practices in Lilavati, has patients waiting for almost two months for a surgery appointment. But several of them have requested for a fresh schedule."It started off with one patient and when I agreed to the request, I got four others.

Even the staff was keen to watch the match so I thought it's better that we allow the rescheduling," said Dr Palshetkar.

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Dr Arvind Kulkarni, among the city's busiest spine surgeons, told Mumbai Mirror that he already has requests from five patients while others have requested for an upgrade to the deluxe rooms at almost Rs 20,000 per day in case they were doomed to spend Wednesday in the confines of a hospital ward.

According to Bombay Hospital sources, these demands for upgrading may put pressure on the 15 deluxe rooms next week.

In the case of a 47-year-old lady from Juhu however, the request for a rescheduling of her surgery has less to do with her love for the game and more to do with her family, especially her husband.

It was her husband who asked doctors at Juhu's Sujay hospital if his wife's surgery to remove her uterus could be performed on some other day.

Dr Udhav Raj from the hospital said that he is grappling with five other requests for a change in surgery dates.

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