India set to integrate rare blood donor registry with e-Rakt Kosh

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Photo used for representation purpose only. In what would be a life, time and cost saving move for people with rare blood groups in India the Central Health Ministry is looking at integrating the country's Rare Donor Registry with the national online platform for blood bank management and blood availability information called e-Rakt Kosh.

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Research’s (ICMR)-NIIH and Centre for Research, Management and Control of Heamoglobinopathies (CRMCH).

akt Kosh. | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

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She added that the integration project will be taken up soon and will offer more access and support to those with rare blood group. “The challenge is to ensure that we have a steady, motivated group of donors who stay connected to the blood banks,” she said.

Explaining how this the registry for rare blood group helps Dr. Madkaikar said that this system helps find rare matches as the registry includes ultra-rare type like Bombay blood group, P-Null and Rh-null blood. It also helps ensure safer transfusions where matches are available for patients missing multiple antigens (common in thalassemia and sickle cell) to prevent complications.

“The group has also developed a special blood screening kit tailored for Indian patients and it uses DNA test (multiplex PCR) to quickly identify rare blood types,” said Dr. Madkaikar. She added at in the past this registry has been used to turn nearly impossible search into life-saving solutions and with the integration and reach India could work towards ensuring that no life is lost due to lack of blood.

Meanwhile, working the area of effectively managing hemoglobinopathies ICMR-NIIA has also developed point of care test to detect life-threatening blood related genetic disorders.

“The Health Technology Assessments (HTA) led by Department of Health Research (DHR) and ICMR-CRMCH and NIIH helped cut the cost of sickle cell diagnostic kits from ₹350 to under ₹50 per test, saving the government nearly ₹1,857 crore,” said a note issued by ICMR-CRMCH.

“India has developed testing for Hemophilia A and Von Willebrand Disease and now World Federation for Hemophilia has shown interest in procuring these tests for deployment in countries where the disease is prevalent. For India this new rapid, visual card testing device has made testing possible even at primary health centers,” said Dr. Madkaikar.

This upgraded testing is cheaper than what is currently available. India has about 1.4 lakh Hemophilia patients which is the second highest globally after Brazil. Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder where the blood doesn’t clot properly due to a deficiency in clotting factors.

The technology for the POC test for these conditions was transferred to Bengaluru based biotechnology firm Bhat Biotech which commercialised it under the brand name Bio-Scan in August, 2023.

News Source:

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-set-to-integrate-rare-blood-donor-registry-with-e-rakt-kosh/article69720660.ece#goog_rewarded