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## Bleak future

# Mysterious Parkinson's case leaves docs baffled

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** When a 63-year-old wheel-chair-bound woman with all the signs of Parkinson's disease was brought to Brains Hospital for a final diagnosis, doctors were baffled after an MRI of her brain showed normal results.

"There was some confusion about the nature of her condition because on one hand, she showed a stiffening in the limbs and a tendency to fall over – what we call postural instability. And on the other hand, she lacked the usual tremor of the hand associated with the disease," said Dr Aravinda R V, a consultant neurologist at the hospital.

The mystery was deepened by her seeming rapid degeneration, from being a fully mobile person to wheelchair-bound within six



months. According to neurological experts, it takes years for a patient afflicted with Parkinson's to manifest the most glaring signs of the disease, including hand tremors, a bent gait and bradykinesia (or slowness of movement).

Worse, having been diagnosed with the disease, the patient was under medication to control the early effects of the disease, only for medical staff to realise that the drugs were not having any effect. Forty-eight hours into her admission

at the hospital, however, doctors at Brains discovered that she had been afflicted with uterine cancer nearly a decade ago.

"As soon as we discovered this, we suspected that she had something called atypical Parkinsonism or Paraneoplastic Parkinsonism, which manifests itself in one out of every 10 or 20,000 cancer patients," Dr Aravinda said, adding that while Parkinson's is an irreversible degenerative disease, atypical Parkinsonism can be reversed if diagnosed early.

In the case of the patient, doctors also discovered that her cancer had returned and had spread to every organ. She was transferred to oncology, where medical professionals categorised her prospects as bleak.



# NEET results out, but no clarity on med fee

## Govt yet to call meeting with pvt medical colleges

**BENGALURU:** Results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2019 are out and the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is all set to begin document verification, but lack of clarity over the fee structure has left students in a quandary.

The state government had earlier said that a meeting will be convened with representatives of private medical college managements after the lifting of model code of conduct enforced for Lok Sabha elections 2019. But there has been no progress in this regard, with students seeking to study undergraduate medical and dental courses worried about the fee structure.

Meanwhile, private medical college managements are demanding fee hike up to 15%, stating that, in 2018, the government which had agreed for

10% fee hike, later reduced it to 8% following the directions from Fee Regulatory Committee.

"This year we are not going to compromise unless the fee is hiked by 15%. It has become difficult for us to run the colleges and to provide quality education," said a management representative of a private medical college.

As per the agreement signed between Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation and state government, there is a provision provided for 10% fee hike and it would remain for three years.

As per the said agreement, the government has to give 10% hike this year too. But, foundation members are demanding more than 10% hike.

The fee charged for MBBS courses during the 2018-2019 academic year was Rs 50,000 per annum for government medical colleges, while it was Rs 97,350 and Rs 6.83 lakh for government quota

## What next?

Now, KEA will wait for the seat matrix from government and collect rank list. According to the rank list, the schedule for document verification and seat allotment will be announced. As NEET is all India entrance test, students from any state can claim seats anywhere under All India Quota category.

and institution quota seats in private medical colleges respectively.

Meanwhile, Dr P G Girish, director department of medical education, said, "We are not going to increase the fee for government quota seats. And no college management has not approached us or the government or minister so far. We still have time and by next week everything will be finalised."

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