

TACKLING DMD IN KIDS SHOULD FOCUS ON FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT: EXPERTS

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A renewed focus on improvement in function in tackling 'DMD' disease in children was stressed at a state-level symposium on 'Integrated Model of Rehabilitation for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)' was organised by city-based 'Molecular Diagnostics Counseling Care and Research Centre (MDCRC)' in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu, National Health Mission, DPH and the Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation here on Saturday.

Dr Feroz Khan, consultant in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Mohana

Orthotics Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Centre Chennai, observed in his keynote address how muscles enable movement and help to do various functions; he added that this is not the case with children with 'DMD'.

"In children with this condition, muscles are not able to do what they are supposed to do. They know how to move but cannot move," he said, continuing, "once we understand the problem, it becomes relatively easy to manage children diagnosed with the condition." Dr. Feroz Khan said, adding, that it is important to focus on improvement in function.

Dr B. R. Lakshmi, founder of the non-profit organization MDCRC said in her

address, "Vision 2020 of MDCRC is that "no Kid in Tamil Nadu with DMD should go unidentified". The organisation focuses on making the life of children better and its scope ranges from family support to lending its hand towards research which could converge towards the discovery of a cure for the condition."

'DMD' is a lethal genetic neuro-muscular disorder which affects male children. Children are born well, but due to the progressive nature of this X-linked degenerative disorder, they succumb to it during their early twenties. Life span varies according to the specific mutation in the dystrophin gene. The disorder does not have a cure to this day, say experts.