HEPATITIS PATIENT'S FORUM

Give Life A Chance



AN INITIATIVE OF

Liver Foundation, West Bengal

Backdrop

Hepatitis B & C are emerging problems in present India. Advanced technology-dense medical care is progressively going beyond the reach of average Indian. The cost of therapy and routine diagnostic interventions of Hepatitis is very high. A lot of stigmas are also associated with this disease. But Hepatitis is preventable and general awareness regarding misconceptions around it is necessary.

Moreover, dealing with this disease is often stressful and may change the way a person lives and how he or she relates to others. So, beyond the routine medical checkups and medicines the patient needs to maintain his or her confidence, positive self image and emotional balance to cope with the negative feelings as well as with the long treatment procedures. These were the initial thoughts of Liver Foundation, West Bengal behind the formation of a support group with the Hepatitis patients.

On July 28th 2012 **Hepatitis Patients' Forum** was formed with Hepatitis patients by Liver Foundation, West Bengal. This initiative is supported by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, a leading philanthropic organization.

Activities of Hepatitis Patients' Forum:

As a **patient support group** the members of Hepatitis Patients Forum meet at the Liver Foundation, West Bengal's Kolkata office at a regular interval with the purpose of extending mutual emotional support to each other.



A **Self Help Group** is formed with the active and interested members of Hepatitis Patients' Forum. The group is trained by the experts in art and craft works. They raise funds by selling their creations (cards, masks, wall hangings etc.) in different places. This fund is distributed among the members of the Self Help Group' who are in serious medical emergency and are stressed with the burden of their treatment costs.



Lobbying with the Government to ensure the legitimate rights of the Hepatitis patients.

Hepatitis Patients' Forum is also engaged in **reducing stigma** and misbelieves with regard to this disease through various systematic approaches.



Networking with the patients in other districts of West Bengal to ensure different supports for the prevention and management of Hepatitis.

Patient advocacy is another important activity of the Hepatitis Patients' Forum for their overall well being. "Late Santosh Majumder Memorial Grant" is provided to (every year on 'World Health Day') one Hepatitis patient for his/her treatment need.

As being a part of Hepatitis Patients' Forum one can have:



Companionship supports are extended by the forum members who meet at regular intervals to relate with each other and extend their mutual relationships with compassion, concern and sensitivity.

Informational supports are provided to the forum members regarding their healthy living, daily exercises, nutrition and psychological wellbeing in monthly workshops and seminars.

Emotional supports are provided through Psychological Counseling and advice by the experts, if needed, for combating his/her emotional sufferings and for developing the coping strategies to deal with the stress of the chronic illness and the long term treatment procedures.

Instrumental supports are provided to the members of patients' forum through awareness instruments or 'tools' regarding the mode of infection, preventions and cares for Hepatitis.

Appraisal supports are provided by mainstreaming of the patients in the society who are stigmatized by the misconceptions about Hepatitis. For this purpose they are being engaged in different regular and special activities.

Besides these, the members of the forum get the special cost effective diagnostic facilities at the BMSF-LFWB Molecular Virology Research Laboratory to reduce his/her treatment burden.



গণশক্তি

সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধির উদ্যোগে পালিত বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্যদিবস



সংবাদ প্রতিদিন, সোমবার ৮ এপ্রিল ২০১৩

বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য দিবসে লিভার ফাউন্ডেশনের উদ্যোগে রবিবার হেপাটাইটিস পেশেন্ট ফোরামের হয়ে সুস্থ রোগীদের সাহায্যার্থে অর্থ সাহায্য তুলে দিচ্ছেন গায়িকা লোপামুদ্রা মিত্র ও অভিনেতা সাহেন ভট্টাচার্য। এদিন হোস ক্লাবে ভায়াবেটিস সমস্যার মোকাবিলা নিয়ে এক আলোচনায় যোগ দেন চিকিৎসক শুভঙ্কর চৌধুরি, দেবাশিস বসু ও অপর্ণাভিবিদ অভিরূপ সরকার। —প্রতিদিন চিত্র



SUNDAY HINDUSTAN TIMES, KOLKATA
JULY 29, 2012

City doctors set up hepatitis forum

HT Correspondent

KOLKATA: Sixty-two-year-old Santosh Majumdar from Howrah, a daily labourer, was diagnosed last June with Hepatitis B and found it impossible to bear the expenses.

A new self-help patient forum in the city has come to the rescue of patients who find it difficult to bear the expenditure that ... Majumdar is the President of ...

চাকৎসার খরচ দুই হেপাটাইটিস রোগীকে

হেপাটাইটিস রোগীদের নিয়ে চালু স্বনির্ভর

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013

Self-help group to bail out hepatitis patients in need

Few real life stories but there are many more...



Supriya Kumari, a 7 year old girl and her two brothers, Sachin Kumar and Sonu Kumar (8 years and 4 years consecutively) are diagnosed as having Hepatitis B. They were vertically transmitted from their mother. All of them are junior school students. Their father is a jute mill worker and his monthly income is Rs. 4000/- approximately. Among the five members of the family four are having Hepatitis B and are being treated for the same. The disease is a real burden in the family. They have spent more than fifty thousand rupees in treatment and tests.





Yar Ali, a 65 years old person, a Masson, was leading an active life before he was detected as having Hepatitis B. The patient and the family had misbelieves regarding the illness which were clarified by the LFWB activists. One of his daughter stays with him who works as an attendant in a private hospital. The family income is near about 3000/- per month and the total number of family members are four. The treatment expenditure due to pathological testing is Rs. 20,000/- approximately till date. Most of the treatment expanses were provided by the relatives as reported. According to the patient party, as they were not having sufficient money in hand for the pathological testing, they were compelled to postpone the treatment.



Sajal Ganguli, aged 37 years was a student of Diploma in Electrical Engineering but was forced to discontinue his studies after two years due to his renal failure. Later he was infected with Hepatitis B during a dialysis in 2010. His proposed Kidney transplant is postponed due to this infection. He owns a personal shop of electrical and electronic goods. According to the patient his monthly income is near about 3,000/- approximately (on an average). As his treatment expanses are very high (near about 20,000/- per month), he had to sell his house. Sajal is an active member of the 'Self Help Group' of Hepatitis Patients' Forum and received this year's "Late Santosh Majumder Memorial Grant" for his treatment needs.

Hope alone is not a plan....

Join Hepatitis Patients' Forum..

Liver Foundation, West Bengal

33A Chatterjee International Center, J.L.Neheru Road, Kolkata- 700071

email us : liv.fwb@gmail.com Visit us : www.liverfoundation.in