LIFE-CHANGING OP
Teenager has ‘giant lump of his BRAIN that was oozing from his skull’ removed in 11-hour op (and can finally see properly)

Manikandan, 13, from Kerala, India, suffered encephalocele where the bones in his skull failed to close properly in the womb

By Lizzie Parry, Digital Health Editor
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Thirteen Manikandan has endured years of bullying due to the huge growth protruding from above his nose.

Manikandan, 13, has endured years of bullying and isolation because of the massive lump which dangled from above his nose.

But during an 11-hour op, doctors cracked open his skull, isolated his brain, and removed the sack of “non-functioning brain matter” hanging from his face.

Surgeons then had to re-position his eye sockets and re-model his nose, giving Manikandan, who lives with a tribe in Kerala, India, a “new face”.

The lad – who will now attend school for the first time – suffered from rare medical condition encephalocele which causes brain
matter to ooze out of gaps in the skull.

His father Selvan, a plantation worker, said: "I have five children, who are all normal and healthy, except Manikandan who was born with a swelling on the nose which kept growing.

"Because of the huge deformity on his face he never went to school or mingled with others, as people used to make fun of his appearance.

But, after an 11-hour op, the teenager is now free from the giant, tennis ball-sized growth.

"After surgery, he is eager to go back home, start school and make friends.

"I thank the doctors of Amrita Hospital from the bottom of my heart for enabling him to lead a normal life."

A team of ten surgeons operated on Manikandan at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences on June 27.

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Selvan, Manikandan's Dad
Teenager has ‘giant lump of his BRAIN that was oozing from his skull’ removed in 11-hour op (and can finally see properly)

The procedure was paid for by Kerala Government agency, because his parents couldn’t afford it.

Surgeon Dr Subramania Iyer said: “It was a complex surgery.

“Manikandan’s encephlocele was very large which had pushed the bone of his right eye outwards.

“For surgery, his skull was opened and the normal brain isolated from the sac of non-functioning brain matter hanging from his face.”

The growth was ‘non-functioning’ brain matter that had oozed out of the teenager’s skull and was caused by the rare condition encephalocele

“We had to re-position the patient’s eye sockets to remove the deformity in the right eye, and the nose was also remodeled.

“All these were huge surgical challenges.”

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