

Eyes hospital buys

The Emami Group is nursing plans to take its healthcare brand, the AMRI chain of hospitals, across India.

The group is open to acquiring existing hospital properties, provided they are of a particular size, with a capacity of 300 beds, Aditya Agarwal said.

At present, Emami runs two hospital properties in Kolkata with 550 beds, while a third one, with 300 beds, is likely to open its doors by March 2010.

Its fourth 300-bed hospital is coming up at Bhubaneswar by 2010.

Aditya Agarwal said, "We plan to tap the capital cities in the eastern region first - Raipur, Ranchi, Patna - before moving to the rest of India."

While Agarwal did not spell out investments in this space, he indicated that for a 300-bed hospital the investment is Rs 40-50 lakh per bed, and the machinery has to be phased out every 4-5 years.