

United Hospital's Triumph in Cardiac Care

The interviews with the cardiac team also revealed the keen eye of most of the consultants working at the hospital. Dr A M Shafique, a consultant at the cardiology department, shared with us an interesting story where he was able to diagnose a fatal and rare disorder that usually skips the eye of expert doctors due to the rarity of the condition.

The patient in question was a 47-year-old private car chauffeur who had crashed his car right outside the hospital due to suddenly going into cardiac arrest. This was an unusual scenario.

"Looking at the state of the patient at first, we suspected that the patient would not survive. The patient was fully unconscious and had blood acidosis because his heart had stopped performing for a prolonged time period. We corrected these abnormalities and provided medications. The patient had a heart attack and needed a cardiologist. But when I looked at the ECG of the patient, I was able to diagnose that the patient did not actually have a heart attack, but that it was in fact a very rare disease," recalled Dr Shafique.

He explained that this rare condition is known as Brugada Syndrome. This was the very first case of Brugada syndrome with survival from sudden cardiac death that the hospital had seen because the condition was so uncommon and a lot of doctors would usually miss the ECG readings and fail to identify the syndrome.

Associate Consultant of Cardiology Department, Dr Afreed Jahan, praised one of her guides in the journey saying, "Dr Shafique is a tremendous mentor who treats all of his patients equally. Most of all, during the pandemic, he focused on working with patients who had cardiac issues in relation to Covid-19 and successfully treated most of them." She has the experience of more than 4000 cardiac interventional procedures.

The doctors at United Hospital seem to be very keen to address challenging situations quite headon. Prof Dr Afzalur Rahman, Consultant for the cardiology department of the hospital, talked about a 57-year-old patient who had not been receiving the required treatment prior to coming to United

The patient's condition was unique, as he had multiple critical issues. The patient had primarily

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Dr Kaisar Nasrullah Khan, Senior Consultant of United Hospital.

been suffering from chest pain for a prolonged period but since the patient had kidney disease with high creatinine levels along with prostate cancer which had metastasised, his previous doctors were unwilling to carry out angiograms. But, when the patient was admitted to United Hospital, his condition was aggravated with the addition of COVID-19 induced pneumonia. Dr Rahman had to steer this situation in a very tactical manner to figure out his next step with the patient.

Professor Dr Rahman, former Director of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, identified that carrying out an angiogram would be necessary in order to assess the source of the chest pain. Hence, he consulted a urologist to understand the kidney situation of the patient and received the green light to move forward with the highly essential angiogram. The dye used to visualise the arteries during the diagnostic process could also potentially cause further harm to the patient's kidneys. But, with his years of expertise, he was able to use the lowest possible amount of dye and locate the cause of the chest pain - blockage in all blood vessels.

As conversations regarding heart diseases progressed, COVID-19 seemed to be an important topic that kept coming up.

"COVID-19 and heart diseases are very closely connected as the virus binds to certain receptors in the heart which could lead to acute myocardial injury and chronic damage to the cardiovascular system," explained Dr Kaisar Nasrullah Khan, a renowned Cardiologist and Senior Consultant of United Hospital.

According to Dr Khan, the treatment plan during the pandemic should be the treatment of the heart-related condition as well as the symptoms of COVID-19. He recommended government intervention in this area by increasing the number of vaccinations. According to Dr Khan, If 80 percent of the population is vaccinated, then they will also be able to avoid a lot of heart conditions which are related to COVID-19.

"United Hospital deals with the most complicated cases of heart diseases. We have an expert team from our consultant level right down to the nursing level," declared Dr Tunaggina Afrin, an Associate Consultant of the Cardiology department worked in over 3000 surgeries with Dr Fatema Begum and others. She emphasized the role of Smiling Hearts Clinic, a ground breaking solution for Cardiac patients who requires regular monitoring. The Heart Failure care team coordinates with cardiologists ensuring proper treatment and management of heart failure condition with customized care plan.

Dr Samsun Nahar, Associate Consultant of Cardiology Department at United Hospital, who has worked with Dr N A M Momenuzzaman in over 9000 cardiac intervention, stressed on the importance of treating patients the same way they would treat their

"Every time a patient leaves our hospital, our team of doctors here rejoice just as much as the family members of the respective patients," said Dr Nahar in resonance with the rest of the team of consultants and doctors.



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