

Press Release

For immediate publication

Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) performs heart transplant with optimum level of close collaboration and cooperation across borders between government hospital and private healthcare

- *Green Corridor between Delhi airport and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute helps the donor heart spear through 18.2 Kms in a mere 16 minutes*
- *Multiple teams at Jaipur & Delhi work all night to ensure heart reaches on time to destination*

New Delhi, Wednesday, 6th July, 2016: Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) conducted another heart transplant on a patient of 54 years of age ailing with heart failure for the past one year and required numerous hospital admissions and had been waiting in Delhi on the transplant list since the past two months. The 22 year old brain dead donor's heart was brought in from Rajasthan to Delhi for the recipient hailing from Gorakhpur blurring lines between states and distances; the government hospitals and private healthcare providers when organ donation is need of the hour. The coordination between the stakeholders which ensured the heart reached its destination through airlifting the organ and the green corridor which enabled the distance to be covered in a mere 16 minutes reinforces the growing awareness about how important organ transplant is in India. The doctor's team was spearheaded by **Dr. Ashok Seth, Chairman, FEHI**. the transplant procedure was led by **Dr. Zile Singh Meharwal, Director Cardiac Surgery, FEHI** and Dr. Vishal Rastogi, **Coordinator**, Heart Transplant & Heart Failure Program, FEHI.

The recipient was a heart failure patient and had been under the care of **Dr. Ashok Seth**. He had repetitive admissions with heart failure at other hospitals and finally consulted Dr. Seth when all other doctors had given him no hope for improvement. He was admitted under Dr. Seth three months ago for approximately one month did get better after which he was put on the heart transplant list. He thereafter continued to stay in Delhi to wait for a heart of his blood group to be available and continued his medical care under Dr. Seth and his team on a weekly basis. Every day he was hoping to get receive a phone call that a heart would become available as his time of lie was ticking by.

A late night call was received by the Transplant Team of FEHI from Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur about the availability of a heart from Jaipur from a brain dead male due to injury in the head following a road accident. The team of doctors at the Jaipur hospital had counselled the deceased's family and the family had consented to donate his organs to save lives of deserving recipients. The transplant team from FEHI travelled on a special flight to Jaipur and with the highest level of cooperation and

coordination from the Jaipur police and the Delhi police was able to harvest the heart in minimum time following all the operative procedures to bring the heart which travelled 241 kms of aerial distance to reach Delhi. The kidney and liver were donated for needy patients at Jaipur.

The transplant team created a roadmap for transportation of the heart. Following a pre-fixed route the 18.2 kms of distance between Delhi Airport and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute was covered in just 16 minutes with the help of Delhi Traffic Police who manually handled signals making a successful and smooth transition of the organ to FEHI. The harvested heart was received by Dr Z S Meharwal, Director, Cardiac Surgery, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, who had the recipient prepared for the surgery.

Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, said, “We are creating new dimensions with our heart transplant program and to save more lives with our advanced expertise in managing heart failure patients where other centers fail. With this interstate organ transfer we believe that the lines that posed obstacles earlier for the noble act of organ donation have started to disappear. It is wonderful to see awareness growing in our country on how important organ donation is and more and more people transitioning from the shackles of religion, community and language to reach out to do this noble act of contributing to saving lives through organ donation. My greatest regards to families who donate the organs of their deceased loved ones to save 32 lives. It also represents a profound dimension in understanding the collaboration and cooperation between the government and private hospitals to work together to save lives in a sphere where very few organs are available.”

Dr. Meharwal, Director Cardiac Surgery said, “Every heart transplant is as important to us as the first one was as it gives us a great feeling of satisfaction in having saved another life which could not have been saved without the transplant. We consider every organ donated as a step towards increasing awareness in people and the oneness of humankind. It marks the shrinking of the world in families donating organs to save lives of strangers – a step towards humanity. This could not have been possible without the support of Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur, the Jaipur Policed and Delhi traffic police and the donor’s family.”

Dr. Vishal Rastogi, Coordinator Heart Transplant & Heart Failure Clinic said, “The level of coordination and cooperation required from all the stakeholders in such procedures are very high as the time for keeping the heart alive is limited. We have been able to perform a successful transplant only with unconditional support and inputs from everyone.”

There has been a major increase in the number of patients on transplant waiting lists as well as in the number of patients dying while on the waiting list. In India, the annual requirement of hearts is

estimated to be around 50,000 and lungs about 20,000. Less than 5000 kidney transplants are carried out annually against an estimated requirement of over 175,000. Similarly, only 1000 liver transplants are performed every year in a country where over 50,000 perish due to end stage liver disease, mostly related to preventable causes like hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

About Fortis Escorts Heart Institute

Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI), Delhi, a pioneer and centre of excellence in cardiac care, is celebrating 28 years of path-breaking work and service to the numerous heart patients, who have benefitted from treatment, at this outstanding facility. Armed with clinical expertise and cutting-edge medical technology, the hospital has set enviable benchmarks in Cardiac Bypass Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Interventional Cardiology, Non-invasive Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. Till date, FEHI has successfully completed over 1,79,000 Coronary Angiographies, over 97,000 Cardiac Surgeries and almost 62,000 Coronary Angioplasties, in addition to several life-saving procedures. The hospital also performed India's first Trans Catheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS); Asia Pacific's first Directional Atherectomy, Angioscopy, Drug Eluting Stenting, etc. Over the years, FEHI has cloned a Heart Care Network of 19 hospitals and Heart Command Centers in India and abroad. It has also launched the revolutionary e-ICU program, enabling remote and timely access to critical care. Fortis Escorts Heart Institute has won numerous awards and accolades, the most recent among them being the 'Best Cardiology Hospital' at the ICICI Lombard & CNBC TV18 India Healthcare Awards for 2012, 2013 and the No 1. Ranking in the Private Cardiac category Hospital by The Week Nielson Best Hospitals Survey, 2014 and 2015.

About Fortis Healthcare Limited

Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. Currently, the company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 54 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and 314 diagnostic centres.

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