

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Publication

Donor heart transported from Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj to Medanta, the Medicity in a record time, covering a distance of 20 kms in just 12 minutes

New Delhi, Saturday, July 09, 2016: The Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT) unit of Fortis Healthcare Limited successfully transported a donor's heart in the early hours of today morning at 6.30 am from Fortis Ft. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital, Vasant Kunj in South Delhi reaching Medanta, the Medicity in Gurgaon via NH 8 in 12 minutes at 6.42 am.

The donor, a 45-year-old male, was brought into the emergency of Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj by the police in an unconscious state due to head injury sustained in a road accident at Fatehpur Beri near Chattarpur in the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 July. Despite best efforts by the neurosurgery team, the patient could not be revived and he was declared brain dead. The proposal to donate his organs was discussed with the family members who gave their consent, despite their greatest hour of grief. The hospital informed NOTTO, (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization) and police clearance was taken, this being a medico-legal case.

Abrar Ali Dalal, Facility Director, Fortis Ft. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital said, "This is our first deceased donor organ donation for this facility. We thank the donor's family to have agreed for such a noble act even in their hour of grief and irreparable loss. It was also the clockwork precision of all internal and external medical teams which made this dream of a cadaveric donation a reality."

According to the NOTTO protocol/guidelines update each hospital has to inform about their possible organ donation after which the government body decides as to which organ to be sent to which hospital in the region based on a list of recipients. According to the hospital-wise rota decided by NOTTO, the heart will be sent to Medanta, one kidney to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) while the second to Safdarjung Hospital. The liver would be sent to Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon.

"The organ donation rate in the country has increased 10-fold over the last 5 years from 0.05 per million population to 0.5 per million. People from all walks of life are increasingly saying 'yes' to organ donation and we are truly humbled by their noble gesture every time. With NOTTO fully functional and the regional and state machineries getting into the act, an organ donation rate of 1 per million by 2020 now looks a distinct possibility." said **Dr Avnish Seth, Director, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT)**.

The entire process of organ donation and transplant surgeries is meticulous, requiring counselling for the grieving donor family, quick and efficient coordination by the medical and administrative teams to speed up necessary formalities and transport the donated organ quickly to the recipient. Police clearance is a priority required to proceed with organ donation in medico-legal cases. Traffic Police support is equally critical to create a “green corridor” for rapid transit of the organs for transplant between hospitals.

Over the last two years, a heart has been transported in record time via the ‘green corridor’ process four times from FMRI Gurgaon, thrice to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla and once to AIIMS.

About FORT

Established in 2012, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant is in the process of streamlining organ donation in Fortis Hospitals, the largest provider of private healthcare in Asia. The roles undertaken by FORT include: -

- 24-hour referral service for organ and tissue donation
- Assistance with documentation and procedures related to organ and tissue donation
- Family counseling and support
- Organ pledging facility
- Multi-professional education
- Interacting with NOTTO, NATHEALTH, FII, PHD Chamber, NGOs, MNCs and schools to promote organ donation related activities at a national level.

The focus was to establish a robust deceased organ donation platform in 15 Fortis hospitals approved for organ transplantation across the country. Till date multiple organ retrievals have been carried out in 28 patients, resulting in transplantation of 81 organs. Also, with 77 heart transplants, Fortis Hospital at Malar, Chennai is the leader in this field in the country. During this period FORT also coordinated 102 cornea donations. Over 4000 individuals have already pledged to donate their organs through FORT. MOHAN foundation, initially based out of Chennai, now has operations in several states and has led the organ donation drive in the country for last two decades.

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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