

## Intravascular Ultrasound for Complex Angioplasties – Case of Mr Bhikaji Walunj

**Vashi, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016:** Mr Bhikaji Walunj, a 75yr old from Raigad District was presented with symptoms of severe breathlessness and chest pain even on mild exertion. Identifying the symptoms, his family Physician advised medication as initial treatment. However, medicines provided no relief; Walunj was advised to undergo Coronary Angiography, which revealed severe blockages in the main arteries, including left main which is a very critical area. With this revelation, he was referred to a bypass surgeon, who sensed that surgery would be very high-risk as he had multiple problems related to Lungs and blockages in arteries leading to the brain.

Angioplasty of all arteries was the most viable option for the patient. “Such Angioplasties, where patients face multiple complications, are extremely high-risk and most doctors avoid performing those. However, high-tech facilities like Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) available at Fortis Hospital, Vashi, help conduct such complicated procedures with ease,” said **Dr Rahul Gupta, Senior Cardiologist at Fortis Hospital, Vashi**, who performed the procedure for the patient.

IVUS is a medical imaging methodology that uses a specially-designed tube (Catheter) with a Miniaturized Ultrasound Probe attached to one end (Distal) of the tube and the other end of the tube (Proximal) is connected to computerized ultrasound equipment. This structure allows the application of ultrasound technology to view blood vessels inside through the surrounding blood column, visualizing the inner wall (Endothelium) of blood vessels in patients.

As this technique allows Physicians to get images of diseased vessels inside the artery, the arteries of the Heart (Coronary Arteries) are the most frequent imaging subject for IVUS. One of the most valuable utility of IVUS technology is the ability to visualize plaque built-up, which cannot be seen through an Angiography. The buildup of plaque within the artery wall over time leads to heart attacks and narrowing (Stenosis) of the artery (known as Coronary Artery Lesions). This technique is used to assess the volume of plaque within the wall of the artery and/or the degree of narrowness (Stenosis) of the artery and especially in cases where Angiographic imaging is considered unreliable. As envisaged, the technology turned out to be an apt step for Walunj’s treatment. He was discharged within 48 hours after the procedure. The patient now shows no signs of breathlessness or chest pain and is leading a normal life.

“Intravascular Ultrasound is like a miniature ultrasound, which can image the arteries of the heart from within. Advanced technologies such as IVUS help in precise treatment and makes Angioplasty very safe even in complex cases,” says Dr Gupta, who is trained in the IVUS technology in the Netherlands, and frequently uses the same for his patients at Fortis Hospital, Vashi.



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