

Four children undergo latest heart valve replacements free-of-cost at Fortis Hospital, Gurgaon

Fortis Foundation and Being Human Foundation combine clinical excellence and philanthropy

Event organized to sensitize stakeholders and for larger public awareness

Gurgaon, May 03, 2016: It was a heartwarming press-meet where **Rakhi** and **Ayesha** shared their experiences post complex heart valve replacement surgeries at the **Fortis Memorial Research Institute**, (FMRI) Gurgaon today. Suffering from life-threatening congenital heart diseases, these surgeries were like a “dream-come-true” for four children and next of their kin.

Rakhi, aged 11, was suffering from rheumatic heart disease (RHD) which is a commonly acquired heart disease in children due to acute rheumatic fever. This affects the heart, joints and central nervous system. She underwent Mitral Valve Replacement on April 20th. Her father is a farmer from Aligarh with an annual income of barely Rs 72,000. The family willing came forth to pay Rs 10,000 as contribution towards surgical cost.

Ayesha, 20, also suffered from rheumatic heart disease (RHD) along with other underlying conditions. As her family’s monthly income was barely Rs 5000, the hospital did not charge even a nominal fee. She successfully underwent Mitral valve Replacement surgery on April 23rd.

Ashima* (14) and Zayeed* (17) (*names changed to protect identity), was suffering from RHD and an abnormal function of the tricuspid aortic valve disease respectively. The tricuspid valve is located between the right atrium (top chamber) and right ventricle (bottom chamber) of the heart and it has a key role in ensuring blood flow in a forward direction from the right atrium to the ventricle. Both the families decided not to contribute any amount towards surgical costs and the surgery was fully supported by Fortis Foundation. Ashima underwent Mitral Valve replacement; Zayeed underwent Aortic Valve Replacement on April 22nd.

Fortis Foundation in association with **Being Human Foundation** has been carrying out several such surgeries across Fortis network in India, the above being the latest in the NCR region where four children underwent heart valve replacement surgeries between April 20th- 25th 2016 at the facility. The surgeries were performed by **Dr Sandeep Attawar** and his team. All the valve replacements were

donated by **Dr. Vibhu R Kshetry, founder of International Cardiac Outreach and Education at the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation**, known for his numerous philanthropic efforts.

“In India, coronary heart disease is increasingly becoming common among younger age groups. Modern day science and technology (including the reach of internet) and advancement in diagnostics have brought in a paradigm shift in identifying and treating disease in a large segment of the population which was earlier un-diagnosed. Consequently, given the skewed funding process for treatment of children with congenital heart defects such as these and unaffordability in young families in treating their young, there is an urgent need for more organization to support philanthropic work as these to reduce the overwhelming burden of treatable heart diseases. Our goal at Fortis is to contribute to the clinical excellence model in the field of cardiac sciences and the endeavor is to employ economies of scale combined with philanthropy with donor agencies to address the issue,” explained **Dr. Sandeep Attawar, Director, Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, FMRI**.

Mr. Jasbir Grewal, Head, Fortis Foundation said, “The Fortis Foundation was established with the objective of providing preventive and curative healthcare services to the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. The ‘Umeed’ programme has already facilitated as many as **5188** paediatric cardiac surgeries across the country in the past decade. We constantly work towards establishing partnerships with like-minded organizations and stakeholders to make specialized healthcare accessible for those who need them most.”

Dr Simmardeep Singh Gill, Zonal Director, FMRI said that, “The Cardiology Department at FMRI provides the best of services in terms of accurate diagnosis and professional treatment. Our experienced team of top doctors specialises in all forms of cardiac surgeries with advanced technology and best practices. We are extremely happy to contribute and be a part of this effort.”

About Fortis Charitable Foundation

Set up in 2005, The Fortis Charitable Foundation (FCF) was constituted as a trust with Malvinder Mohan Singh & Shivinder Mohan Singh (The Singh Group), Japna Singh and Aditi Singh as its founder trustees. The Foundation works in an inclusive manner not only to align and synergise the social enterprise work of the group companies but to expand its circle of partnerships with Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) and other Corporates. Fortis Charitable Foundation, through its dedicated team of employees and volunteers focuses on five committed programmes that work towards the health and wellbeing of Women; Children; Disaster Relief (Preparedness and Operations); Enabling and Sustaining Charitable Healthcare Infrastructure; Creating and Supporting Open Platforms for Health Information. For information and details please visit our web-site at www.fortisfoundation.in

About Fortis Memorial Research Institute

Fortis Memorial Research Institute is the flagship hospital of Fortis Healthcare Limited. It is a multi-super speciality, quaternary care hospital with a comprehensive team of clinicians and patient care programmes, supported by advanced technology and medical research solutions. Set on a spacious campus with a potential bed capacity of 1,000 beds, this ultra-modern facility utilises and showcases some of the latest technologies in use in world class

health care. Some of the milestone technologies at the hospital include amongst the first pilot project for precision Radio-surgery in the world, integrated operating and procedure rooms, digitized critical care cubicles, advanced Cath-labs, transplant rooms, endoscopy suites, private birthing centres, a state-of-the-art radiation wing and a stem cell lab to name a few facilities. A range of thoughtful services and health facilities for patients and their attending family include several Art 'n' Health programmes to recuperate, a mini theatre to de-stress, retail therapy outlets for immediate needs and a food court providing a choice of dining options to replenish energies.

For more information, please contact:

Fortis Healthcare Ltd.	Avian Media
<p>Ajey Maharaj: +91 9871798573; ajey.maharaj@fortishealthcare.com</p> <p>Tanushree Roy Chowdhury: +91 9999425750 tanushree.chowdhury@fortishealthcare.com</p>	<p>Rishu Singh, +91-9958891501; rishu@avian-media.com</p> <p>Neeraj Shourya, + 91- 9911856010 neeraj@avian-media.com</p>