

HOSPITALS TODAY ARE OFFERING A MENU OF SEAMLESS SERVICES TO MAKE THE TREATMENT AND TRIP OF AN INTERNATIONAL PATIENT HASSLE-FREE

# SAS Nagar: new address for int'l patients

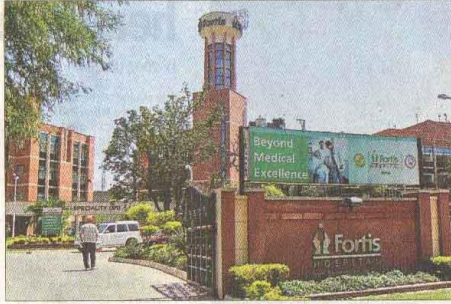
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CHANDIGARH: SAS Nagar is fast emerging as the preferred destination for international patients, and hospitals in the region are gearing up to meet the high standards of patient care required for this.

The treatment for a host of specialities include orthopedic, specifically knee and hip replacements, dentistry, plastic surgery, cosmetic surgery, cardiology and general check-up. Hospitals today are offering a menu of seamless services to make the treatment and trip of an international patient hassle-free.

For example, Fortis Hospital provides a service, which starts right from meeting an international patient at the airport, to registration and discharge and even organising the ground handling of any post-treatment travel.

Official spokesperson of the Fortis, Mohali said that in the past one year, we've got



over 50 international patients, both NRIs and foreigners from countries like Canada, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Rwanda who've received in-patient treatment at the hospital.

She informed the hospital had Abdul Hussein, a resident of Afghanistan who underwent a Cardiac Surgery

in February. A female patient from Kenya also underwent prophylactic bilateral mastectomy (the procedure that Angelina Jolie had undergone) earlier this year.

A group of young patients from Rwanda are here for concessional heart surgeries. They are here under a tie-up between Fortis Healthcare

and Rotary International, she informed.

Gurtej Singh, CEO, IVY Hospital, SAS Nagar says, "Around 35 patients visited Ivy Hospital for medical treatment this year mainly for the cure of Cancer, Knee Replacements and renal Transplants and other.

Most of them were from UK, Canada, Australia and also from USA. The flow has improved gradually this year. We expect the figure to go up considerably in time to come since we are the multispecialty hospital and offer better facilities to all the customers. The doctors believe that, the shift from getting medi-

cal treatment in the country where they live in - primarily USA, UK and Europe - to SAS Nagar is fairly easy to understand. Main factors are the cost and the speed at which they get medical attention. For most treatments, costs can be lower by as much as 60 per cent at SAS Nagar as compared to USA, UK or

## CHANDIGARH LEADER IN HAIR TRANSPLANT

Over the years, Chandigarh has emerged as the capital of medical tourism in hair transplant. City based Cosmetic Surgeon Dr. Tejinder Bhatti, renowned teacher in this field, says Chandigarh offers a perfect deal as far as cost and acceptability is concerned. He said in 2012, he treated as many as 400 patients of Alopecia with FUE Technique. Out of them, 30 percent were foreigners and the rest were NRIs.

me to either travel to India or South Africa for further treatment. I got in touch with my friend, who works in New Delhi, and he told me medical facility in Mohali. It has all the facilities that are there in Western hospitals and that too at affordable cost. Plus, Mohali has easy air connectivity to New Delhi and the people in this region are very warm and caring. The pickup and drop facility was an added benefit."

Meanwhile, several hospitals in the region are hopeful that once Chandigarh airport starts handling international flights they expect the international patients to leapfrog. They are of view that many patients still prefer visiting Mumbai or Delhi since it is well connected with outside world.

"Once we have international flights starting from here, it will definitely give a big boost to all kind of industries including medical tourism, said CII's local president Manmohan Singh.

Europe. At the same time, treatment and surgeries are possible practically immediately, while the waiting period could be months in their own country.

Faraz Chirikura, a resident of Zimbabwe who just got his heart surgery said, "After my problem was detected in Harare, my doctor asked