

Interaction with Dr. Jaspal Arneja, Interventional Cardiologist, Arneja Heart Institute, Nagpur

Important Statistics of Arneja Heart Institute (AHI)

Intervention Cardiology

Angiographies	10,336
Angioplasties	3,306
Radial Angiographies	2,463

Success Percentage **99.3%**

Cardiac Surgery

Total surgeries	2,774
Surgeries at AHI	754

Success Percentage **98.6%**

Q. Capacity of the institute and total number of staff employed?

Arneja Heart Institute is a fifty bed hospital with total staff strength of more than 200 employees which include specialist cardiologists, support staff and the administrative staff

Q. What is the nature of your tie-up with Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre Ltd?

The institute has two full time cardiologists based in Nagpur from the Escorts Heart Institute, New Delhi, who are part of the team of doctors performing the heart surgeries at the institute

Q. Escorts, New Delhi, is a major player in Indian Medical Tourism for offering heart surgeries. Apart from the additional journey that one has to take to come to Nagpur, how does one compare the surgery done in Nagpur with that in Delhi?

Nagpur is very cost competitive as compared to New Delhi while the quality of medical intervention is at par to that conducted in Escorts, New Delhi

Q. Being a renowned medical practitioner, what is your take on the medical tourism potential of Nagpur?

Nagpur has tremendous potential due to the quality of medical professionals available, coupled with cost effectiveness of the medical interventions provided. Accreditation is the only issue of concern with the medical patients who seek treatment. At the moment, the Institute is ISO 9001-2000 certified.

Q. At the recently concluded expert meet, a point strongly discussed was that the specialist doctors should take their skills before the world. Could you please elaborate?

The world is a big place. A beginning could be made by promoting the specialty medical interventions offered by the institutes in Nagpur on the internet, highlighting the credentials of the doctors who are affiliated to the institute, including the success rate of the medical interventions performed.

Q. How many foreign patients has the institute treated so far? Could they be treated as cases of medical tourism?

The institute does receive a fair amount of foreign patients seeking expert cardiac interventions. Last month, there were three foreign patients from Pakistan, Kuwait and Oman for Bypass cardiac surgeries. The institute is also expecting patients from Libya as per the enquiries received at the hospital.

Q. What help would institute like yours, who are centers of excellence in their own way, want from FICCI, which has its own Medical Tourism Council of Maharashtra?

FICCI could act as a promotional organization vigorously highlighting and promoting the strengths of various medical institutes of Maharashtra, including the smaller institutes which are at par in providing quality medical services compared to the big super specialty hospitals but are very cost competitive.

Q. There was a discussion of a small pool of expert medical practitioners coming together to try and further the cause of medical tourism potential of Nagpur. Could you please elaborate on that?

There are discussions going on among a small group of doctors, who are experts in various fields like Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Dentistry, etc, to collectively come together and work out a strategy that will ensure that medical tourism in Nagpur too gets a boost but things are still at the discussion stage.