Press Release
6 March 2013

25 YEARS OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION:
THE BELLE VUE INITIATIVE

Matching the blood group is no longer an imperative for kidney transplantation. The donor’s blood group need not, necessarily, match that of the recipient. However, the donor and recipient’s blood group should ideally be compatible, according to noted nephrologists of Kolkata. They assembled at an event held on the completion of 25 years of Kidney Transplantation at Belle Vue Clinic today (6 March 2013). Over the period, about 1,000 patients have had successful renal transplantation at Belle Vue Clinic.

On the occasion, senior nephrologists, including Dr A R Nandi, Dr Pratim Sengupta and Dr A R Dutta, emphasized the current challenge in kidney transplantation along with the current need of promotion of cadaveric and across-the-barrier transplant. As a torch-bearer in many other fields of medical science, Belle Vue Clinic performed the first kidney transplantation in eastern India on 6 March 1988 when medical science in this part of the country was in infancy. Dr Nandi took all to a guided journey down memory lane, tracing the history of renal transplantation in this part of the country and the important role played by Belle Vue Clinic in this respect. Also, Belle Vue Clinic introduced its dialysis service in 1977. The first successful renal transplantation in India was done at Christian Medical College, Vellore, on 2 February 1971. Over the period, the renal transplantation programme has come a long way.

Dr Pratim Sengupta narrated a case study which was unique in its type to be the first ever related-cadaveric kidney transplant in medical history. Dr M. C. Seal and Dr Nandi shared their experiences regarding that case. A number of cured patients
with transplanted kidney also shared their experiences and discussed how they had
got a new lease of life with renal transplantation.

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Apart from Dr Nandi, Dr Sengupta and Dr Dutta, other prime players in the field of
kidney transplantation, including Dr Seal, Dr Lalit K Agarwal, Dr P K Bose, Dr S. S.
Saha, Dr Krishnendu Mukherjee, Dr Ajay Banerjee, Dr Sadhan Roy, Dr Shyamal
Choudhury, Dr Jahar Banerjee & Dr Debu Roy, were felicitated by the transplant
recipients themselves. It was an afternoon of thanksgiving to the medical fraternity
by the survivors who utilized the opportunity with gratitude.

All the medical experts emphasized that chronic kidney disease was
retardable in majority of cases if strict lifestyle, diet and medical advice are
followed. They underlined that chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal
disease have reached epidemic proportions globally. However,
transplantation of human organs is undoubtedly one of the greatest medical
breakthroughs of this century.

A patient, who had received the kidneys of her parents after their death, narrated
the story of her second birth and paid tributes to her late father and mother as well
as the astute nephrologists of Belle Vue Clinic.

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Submitted for kind favour of publication by Biswajit Matilal (98310 52485 / 98740 4485)