

Live demo of heart procedures

By a staff reporter

DUBAI — Around 200 cardiologists and other physicians watched the Live Demonstration Course in Basic and Advanced Interventional Cardiology at Hotel Grand Hyatt yesterday for the first time ever in Dubai from a private hospital.

Cardiologists in



The live demo being held in Dubai

attendance were not only from the UAE but also from the neighbouring countries, as well as from Europe and the United States. They also experienced a 'Hands-on Workshop', conceived and conducted by the upcoming Shawl Cardiovascular Institute and Research Centre (SCIRC) at Zulekha Hospital, Dubai.

This programme is a prestigious part of Synapse, the Branded Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme of ZH, is granted 13 credit hours by the Dept of Health and Medical Sciences, Dubai

and will be in the sovereignty of Dr Fayaz Shawl, who is also entrusted as the Chairman and Chief Interventional Cardiologist of the SCIRC.

The Live Demonstration featured Dr Shawl with his world renowned faculty demonstrating interesting interventional cardiology cases. Dr Shawl has been conducting live demonstration courses since 1985 after his teacher, Dr Andreas Gruentzig passed away in a tragic air accident.

Dr Fayaz Shawl believes that 'live-procedure-view' teaching is the most

effective as the doctors who come to attend the course want to watch every detail: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Through Live Demonstrations, Didactic Lectures and Case Discussions, this programme from ZH will provide a learning environment for basic and advanced technical skills while discussing the selection process in variety of complex cases.

Physicians watch and learn complex keyhole heart surgery

■ Doctors hope to perform such operations in the UAE

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More than 100 UAE-based physicians watched the most complex keyhole heart surgery live in a first-of-its-kind educational course in the emirate.

The doctors were joined by more than 100 physicians from around the world, who

came to watch Dr Fayal Shawl administer interventional treatment on chronic heart disease patients.

Dr Shawl was operating at the Zulekha Hospital in Dubai – where he pays visits every month from the United States – while live footage was transmitted to physicians in Hyatt Regency.

They saw Dr Shawl push wires up through the groin of four separate patients to help unblock their arteries, while a panel deliberated on what should be done next.

The operating theatre at the Zulekha Hospital literally became a theatre, as giant screens at the hotel relayed pictures of the beating heart and wires moving in to move the blockages along.

Dr Azzan Bimbek, head of cardiology at Rashid Hospital and co-ordinator of the programme, said interventional procedures were not new to the UAE, but the level of complexity with the cases Dr

Shawl was dealing with was something only he and others from outside the UAE can administer.

“At the moment we are not able to deal with such complex cases, but with courses such as this we hope to close the gap,” he added.

“Dr Shawl’s skills are tremendous and this is the best way for a large number of people to see the complex procedures and, in a sense, learn the tricks of the trade.”

One of the patients Dr Shawl was treating was a 73-year-old man who was a smoker, and suffers from hypertension and has had previous heart treatment.

One of the man’s arteries – which carries blood from the heart – had been blocked for several months.

The tricky procedure saw the man’s vessels cleared using an angioplasty, or balloon type procedure, which inflates the artery allowing the blockage move along and then with



■ More than 100 UAE-based physicians watch a complex keyhole heart surgery live at Hyatt Regency

SUPPLIED

DIFFICULT PROCEDURE

A less straight forward procedure, which may be something some physicians in the UAE would not tackle, is a complex one.

If the patient’s left main artery is affected at the mouth or at the beginning, then it proves to be more difficult as the chances of perforation and moving the blockage are greater. If there is chronic total exclusion, where an artery has been blocked for many months or years, then the blockage can be like a concrete set to the walls of the vessel. This has a success rate of 50 to 70 per cent.

a stent – a wire mesh tube – fitted to the vessel the artery stays open.

Dr Omar Hallak, chief of the interventional cardiology department at the American Hospital, said: “Dr Shawl is showing us that even the most complex and difficult cases can be dealt with.”

SIMPLE PROCEDURE

A straight forward interventionalist procedure, which would be commonly performed in the UAE hospitals, would be a small and recent blockage in the middle of the artery.

The blockage could be 80 to 90 per cent and using an angioplasty or deflated balloon on a wire the blockage could be moved when the balloon is inflated. A stent would then be fitted to act as a scaffold.

First-ever live course held in interventional cardiology

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AROUND 200 cardiologists and other physicians watched a live demonstration course in Basic and Advanced Interventional Cardiology at Hotel Grand Hyatt recently for the first time in Dubai from a private hospital.

The cardiologists attended the meeting was not only from the UAE but also from the neighbouring countries and from Europe and the United States. They have experienced "Hands-on Workshop," conceived and conducted by the upcoming Shawl Cardiovascular Institute and Research Centre (SCIRC) at

Zulekha Hospital, Dubai.

This programme was a prestigious part of synapse, the branded CME programme of Zulekha Hospital and was granted 13 credit hours by the Department of Health and Medical Sciences, Dubai and was in the sovereignty of Dr Fayaz Shawl, who is also entrusted as the Chairman and Chief Interventional Cardiologist of upcoming SCIRC at Zulekha Hospital, Dubai.

The live demonstration featured Dr Shawl with his world renowned faculty demonstrating interesting interventional cardiology cases. Dr Shawl had been conducting live demonstra-

tion courses since 1985 after his teacher, Dr Andreas Gruentzig passed away in a tragic air accident.

Dr Fayaz Shawl, MD, is director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine at George Washington University, US, and director of Interventional Cardiology at Washington Adventist Hospital, Maryland. In the early days of angioplasty, Dr Shawl brought the US military into the balloon age when he performed the first PTCA at a military hospital (Walter Reed). One of the pioneers of interventional cardiology, Dr Shawl trained under Andreas Gruentzig and Richard

Myler. Dr Fayaz Shawl, the chairman of SCIRC, at Zulekha Hospital believes that "live-procedure-view" teaching is the most effective. The demonstration also threw light on how to select and deploy a stent and how to perform easily Rota-ablation without running into problems.

This programme was demonstrated for the first time not only in the UAE but the entire Middle East, the use of Impella left heart assist device. This device is inserted without surgery through the groin artery while the patient keep awake and talking, even if his heart stops functioning.



A live demonstration course featured Dr Fayaz Shawl with his faculty presenting interesting interventional cardiology cases.