

Activity Report of the EurAsiaHeart Foundation in Vietnam 2011

EurAsiaHeart Foundation again visited several hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang and Hué between November, 22nd and December, 2nd 2011 :

1. Visit of the Khanh Hoa hospital of the province of Nha Trang.
2. Presentations at the National Cardiovascular Congress of the University Hospital in Hué.
3. Continuation of the negotiations about the realization of the cardiovascular University clinic of the PNT Medical School HCMC as member of the German-Vietnamese delegation.
4. Surgical activity at the Tam Duc Hospital

ad 1. This year I decided to join the delegation to visit the Khanh Hoa Hospital in Nha Trang, which is visiting this hospital annually. Because of the well-known plans of the hospital administration to build a new hospital and to set up a cardiac surgical service within the coming years, I decided to join the delegation to seek personal contact with the local authorities. Hereby I could offer them collaborative support in this project, which was very welcomed. The new building is already under construction and 2 years ago, 3 young surgeons had been sent to the Cho Ray hospital in HCMC for specialisation in cardiac surgery. As it became clear, I had got to know them at the Cho Ray hospital in recent years.

ad 2. This year, the National Cardiovascular Congress took place in Hué. I was invited to present two talks on the treatment options of pathologies of the aortic root and the possibilities of mitral valve repair in postthreumatic disease. In Hué also, an extension of the University Hospital is currently under construction. It will be ready to be run in a few weeks with a new cardiac cath lab. Cardiac surgery is planned, but at the moment not realizable.

ad3. The project to have an university hospital for the PNT Medical School runs for several years now. At present there is a loose partnership with the People's Hospital 115 across the street. Basically, construction and financial funding of a new cardiovascular university clinic for the PNT University has been granted by the city's authorities and a slot assigned. However, difficulties with former land owners is delaying further action. It may be helpful, that the designed minister of Health of HCMC is the current dean of the PNT Medical School.

ad 4. Again this year, I was invited to perform a delicate reoperation of a young man at the Tam Duc Hospital. Having arrived, I heard, that the young patient had to be operated on in the meantime because of his clinical deterioration. Unfortunately, he remained on the ICU for 6 weeks now due to postoperative mediastinitis. Advice from our infection specialists about choice and duration of the antibiotic treatment was accepted gladly in this difficult situation. During my stay, I had the opportunity to operate and assist on various congenital pediatric cases.

ad 5. Again, the Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery from the Cho Ray Hospital invited me to join his team during my stay. Unfortunately, I fell sick and could not meet him during this stay.

In summary, conditions are under change for cardiovascular medicine in Vietnam. However, there is still a big need for cardiovascular treatments and know-how is still scarce. Soon, new hospitals will be run, allowing an increase of patient numbers, though without improvements in results, considering the ongoing lack of know-how.

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