

OVERSEAS SURGERIES

Be Aware!

India has emerged as one of the few countries that have beaten the economic meltdown and strengthened its position as a robust economy in the world. Amongst many of the growth sectors that have propelled the economy, healthcare is one of the most vibrant areas.



Medical Tourism has gained momentum in India over the past few years with high quality service providers and low-cost advantage. The numbers of International patients is growing by 30% annually with a prediction by the government that this sector as a whole could see significant growths for the next five years with inflow of international patients.

There are a large number of overseas Indians and foreigners who have started looking at India as a very attractive healthcare destination. The future of Medical Tourism looks very bright as hospitals in Western world continue to remain overburdened. Indian hospitals are gearing up to set up offices abroad to encourage international patients to contact them with representatives and doctors in potential markets. They offer value addition to medical treatment including tourism in India with tie-ups with doctors, hospitals and tourism companies to offer a comprehensive service to the international patient.

Medical Costs in USA & UK are ever-rising and the search for cheaper options make sense for NRIs across the globe who are waiting for operations in various hospitals. Medical Tourism is the latest trend where apart

from a budget medical option, you are also offered an exotic vacation all in one –Recover then Discover.

In the past several years, trip organisers say, more patients have been pursuing not just elective and cosmetic surgeries, but also medically necessary procedures like knee replacement, angioplasty or hip replacements, dental as well as corrective vision using laser technology. India has become the most preferred destination for people wanting to undergo treatment in order to not only avoid long waiting times in UK or USA but also save costs as significant differences do exist.

However whilst all this sounds great, Medical tourism is an industry largely unregulated and therefore many questions arise in terms of standard of care, safety as well as surgical skills and credentials. Therefore the patient is highly recommended to do the homework properly and take a “Buyer Be-aware” attitude to get as much information as possible.



Some Tips:

- Check out all references and credentials of Hospital and Doctors
- Research website and other literature provided by the agency or Hospital, including on obtaining past video of operative procedure to judge and assurance of outcome and Surgeons credentials and direct contact with Surgeon to have conference calls
- Ask questions about pre-operative examination and post operative follow up as patient’s legal resource could be limited if something goes wrong
- Ask to speak to former patients –Good clinics should allow this