



INSTITUT JANTUNG NEGARA  
National Heart Institute

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### IJN FIRST IN ASIA TO CARRY OUT INNOVATIVE HEART VALVE TREATMENT

**KUALA LUMPUR, 25 August 2021:** Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) has marked another remarkable milestone by being the first hospital in Asia to successfully perform a new type of treatment for patients suffering from tricuspid regurgitation or leaky heart valves.

This treatment is a minimally invasive procedure that involves using a dry valve preloaded delivery system, called the Tricvalve® Transcatheter Bicaval Valves system (Bioprosthesis).

The Breakthrough Device Designation for Tricvalve® and the bioprosthesis is used for patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation (leaky valves) with high risk for open-heart surgery.

The procedure was carried out at IJN on 6 May 2021, by the Heart Failure & Heart Transplant team and Cardiology Department.

The Tricvalve® system is specifically developed for patients who suffer from tricuspid valve regurgitation, particularly those who are unable to control their symptoms through other treatments and are deemed too high-risk for surgery.

Tricuspid valve regurgitation is a condition where the leaflets of the tricuspid valve are unable to close properly, causing backflow of blood (or "regurgitate") into the heart's upper right chamber and in severe condition into the cava. Untreated, the condition can lead to heart failure.

A common cause of this condition is an increased size of the lower right heart chamber (the right ventricle), which can cause a strain in the tricuspid valve's ability to function.

Patients may experience symptoms such as fatigue, abnormal heart rhythms, shortness of breath, and swelling in the legs and abdomen. However, these signs often do not develop until the condition becomes severe.

Patients with mild tricuspid valve regurgitation are managed with medication to relieve the symptoms, and those with severe conditions may require heart valve repair or replacement.

Dato' Dr Azmee Mohd Ghazi, Clinical Director, Heart Failure & Heart Transplant, Consultant Cardiologist, IJN, explained that not all patients are able to withstand the risks of surgery or may have other conditions that make them unsuitable for certain procedures.

"For instance, a common surgical option for tricuspid valve regurgitation is annuloplasty, a procedure that tightens the ring around the valve in the heart. Unfortunately, in patients with severely dilated tricuspid annulus or with prior pacemaker or other underlying conditions, they will not be suitable for such procedure.

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“For such cases, it is important that we are able to offer a new innovative treatment like Tricvalve® to help more patients alleviate their symptoms and improve their quality of life,” he said.

The dual-valve system is developed for a minimally invasive procedure and offers a quicker recovery period for patient with symptomatic severe tricuspid regurgitation. Hence, the learning curve for doctor is relatively fast, and the procedure can be performed effectively while ensuring the patient’s safety.

Meanwhile, Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim, Chief Executive Officer & Senior Consultant Cardiologist, IJN expressed his gratitude to the IJN team for seeking out newer and more innovative methods of treatment.

“It’s no secret that IJN’s success has been built on the willingness of our staff to keep learning, exploring for new innovative treatments that can enhance our patients’ quality of life and pushing the boundaries to be able to treat more patients who are deemed unsuitable for surgeries.”

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