

With a history of heart attacks and the various tests and treatments required, I again needed surgery to solve another problem. IJN used new diagnostic methods to achieve the best outcomes for me.

Hashim Man

66 years

Covered Endovascular Reconstruction of the Aortic Bifurcation (CERAB) with Carbon Dioxide Angiogram.

“One night in February 2020, I found that I could not move both of my legs. Fearing it was a stroke, I went to hospital and they discovered that I had a block in the aorta that affected the blood flow in my legs.

While I was waiting for surgery, the COVID-19 pandemic descended upon us and my surgery was postponed. During this time, I also found out that I have weak heart, with only 20% ejection fraction compared to a normal heart that has 50-60% ejection fraction.

I was referred to IJN, and they helped to optimise my heart function through medication and monitor me while waiting for my surgery. With no news forthcoming about my surgery from the referral hospital, I finally went to see IJN's new vascular surgeon, Dr Ismazizi about my aorta problem.

I was very hopeful when I went to see him and although I was facing various issues with a long history of health problems on top of the aorta blockage, I left things up to God and the surgeons' hands.

My aorta surgery was done with the help of a CO2 Angiogram to identify the blockage point instead of a contrast CT. Dr Ismazizi told me this was the best option to prevent additional adverse effects of the contrast medium on my kidneys. He did not want to stress my kidneys further as I had already undergone numerous contrast CT procedures for heart problems, and I am also a patient with chronic kidney disease. This was the first time I heard of this method, and I was quite impressed that IJN had expertise in this new technology.

Although I had some minor problems during the surgery, everything turned out well. Dr Ismazizi and the IJN team were efficient and capable, and IJN's professional vascular centre is poised to help many people.

I still have to go for rehabilitation and physiotherapy, but the COVID-19 situation somewhat hinders these initiatives. While blood flow to my legs have improved, I still need to use a wheelchair to move about. I hope to eventually increase my mobility and perhaps not depend so much on the wheelchair.

I really do not like hospitals and do not like having to get any treatment. However, when I needed an important vascular procedure, Dr Ismazizi at IJN inspired such confidence in me, and I am grateful for his help.

Khamsiah Mohd Yusof

71 years

Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) Left Illiac Vein Stenting and VenaSeal Closure System for varicose Vein

“I had a problem with my veins, and my leg started swelling up - the doctors called it cellulitis. The first episode was at the end of 2019, and my daughter, a doctor herself, helped me resolve the problem.

However, it recurred twice the following year, and the second time we asked for a referral to IJN, my daughter suspected that something more serious was wrong as the problem worsened. We were afraid that it might progress and become potentially a life-threatening condition.

Earlier in 2017, I had seen a vascular surgeon in another hospital for vein issues, and they had suggested some medical glue treatment for my veins. However, I did not want the treatment, and the problem probably deteriorated to this cellulitis issue.

At IJN, Dr Ismazizi diagnosed me as having a malposition of the iliac vein, which he said was quite abnormal. The artery was compressing the vein and blocking blood flow resulting in pain and swelling, and I needed surgery. However, I was still very hesitant.

The fact that we were in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic not help either, as I also had to undergo all the necessary quarantine and testing.

First, I had to have treatment for cellulitis and during this treatment, Dr Ismazizi came to see me every day and patiently explained the imminent surgical procedure, he brought pictures and diagrams and continued to encourage me. He was very professional and eventually allayed my fears, and I finally decided to proceed with the surgery for my long-term well-being.

He and the rest of the IJN staff made me very comfortable during my entire stay with them. They adhered to all the COVID-19 SOP's very well and ensured I was always comfortable and assured. The surgery went smoothly, and I am very thankful to Dr Ismazizi for his time and patience.

Halabi Hasbullah

64 years

Arteriovenous Fistula (AV Fistula)

IJN was a lifesaver for me...they helped me with a procedure that I was very concerned about, and it has brought much relief to me.

As a diabetes patient since my twenties, I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Chronic Kidney Disease after a hospital admission for cholangitis. Doctors told me that I would eventually require dialysis and had a choice between water dialysis and haemodialysis.

I decided to proceed with the AV Fistula immediately even though I did not need dialysis just quite yet. This is because I wanted to be prepared and did not want to be caught in a situation of acute renal failure that would require more complicated treatment.

There were some complications about my case and I was referred to IJN for this procedure and I am glad that this happened.

The transfer to IJN was very smooth and efficient. Dr Ismazizi attended to me, and I was sent for screening and scanning on the day of my first consultation. I was electively admitted to the hospital on Sunday, April 11, 2021 and the procedure was scheduled for Monday.

The surgery took about half an hour under local anaesthetic, and I could see what was happening on a screen. After a few hours of observation, I was discharged on the same day with a follow-up appointment to check on wound healing two weeks later.

The entire procedure went very smoothly, and I am very relieved that all went well. I am very satisfied with the way IJN handled everything and very appreciative that the whole process from consultation to procedure and discharge was so smooth. The staff were really helpful, and overall I was quite impressed.

I am now waiting for the fistula to mature, after which everything would be ready for when I need dialysis. I hope that it does not come too soon, so I am controlling my food and trying to live a healthier lifestyle. I am also taking care of my fistula by being cautious that I avoid heavy lifting with my fistula arm.



I had an AV Fistula at IJN, and I am very pleased with the way IJN managed my case.

Rohani Ahmad

58 years

Arteriovenous Fistula (AV Fistula)



I have been living with diabetes and hypertension for many years, and 4 years ago, I had a bypass surgery done at IJN.

Two years after that, I developed Diabetes Ketoacidosis (DKA) as a result of hyperglycaemia. Once again, I was admitted to the hospital due to further complications and intubated. Eventually, I was told to go on dialysis. Then came the need for an Arteriovenous (AV) Fistula to facilitate dialysis.

The hospital I was treated at could not do the procedure for me as my veins were too delicate. My history of bypass, chronic diabetes and hypertension also complicated matters further.

Earlier this year, I was seen by Dr Ismazizi. He reviewed my case, recommended the AV Fistula and he eventually placed a Brachiocephalic Fistula (BCF) for me.

I am thankful that Dr Ismazizi could do the procedure for me. Otherwise, I would be put on a long waiting list at my original hospital, and would be waiting for a vascular surgeon to do the procedure.

I am quite happy with my treatment at IJN, especially how the doctors and nurses treated me. They are very professional, very knowledgeable and also very kind and gentle. Even though we are in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, there was no delay, whatsoever and IJN took all the necessary precautions. I felt I was in good hands.



Teoh Sin Loon

45 years

Complex Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty - Thoracic endovascular aortic repair (PTA-TEVAR)

I have had three aortic aneurysms and have been under the care of IJN for all three of them.

Although I am considered quite young for this condition, I have a predisposition for aortic aneurysms. My first surgery was about 4 to 5 years ago, while the second surgery was in 2019. I was also prescribed blood pressure medication and cholesterol control medication after the respective surgeries.

During one of my scheduled follow-ups after the second surgery, a CT-scan showed that a third aortic aneurysm was developing, this time in the thoracic region. As I already had two surgeries for aortic aneurysms, the doctors initially recommended conservative management instead of open surgery which they said would be complicated and riskier.

However, the aneurysm grew bigger and pressed on my nerves, resulting in back pain. Eventually, one year after this third diagnosis, I had to have surgery. By this time, IJN had a specialist endovascular surgeon, Dr Ismazizi, and he performed a Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair (TEVAR).

The procedure took about 5 - 6 hours. As it was an endovascular procedure, I recovered faster. I spent only two days in ICU and another three in the normal ward. It was also definitely less painful.

I was quite happy about the endovascular surgery as I found it to be less stressful than expected. The experienced and professional doctors and the caring and cordial nurses, also contributed towards making the entire experience much less of an ordeal, as any surgery would undoubtedly be.

Overall, I think IJN does live up to its reputation as a centre of excellence for cardiovascular and thoracic care.

