

# Doctor performs 'Diamond drill'

BY DHEERAJ

THE US based cardiologist, Dr. Fayaz Shawl, along with his team performed the first "Diamond Drill" to open multiple blockages in UAE at Zulekha Hospital in Dubai on Monday.

The "Diamond Drill" procedure helps to avoid the open heart surgery incidentally was performed on a diamond merchant Harshad Mehta.

This procedure promises greater precision as a new alternative for patients with multiple, hard, calcified blockages in their arteries.

Mehta was in lively conversation with Dr. Shawl throughout the period when the new complex non surgical heart procedure was carried out.

Mehta will be ready to go home in 24 hours following the completion of the procedure.

"The Diamond Drill is a safer, less invasive alternative for patients who previously had little hopes for resuming a normal life owing to the calcified

blockages", Dr. Shawl observed.

During this procedure, a small catheter is painlessly threaded through an artery into the heart.

The usage of diamond ensures clearing of the most stubborn, hardened and calcified blockages.

Dr. Shawl who is Clinical Professor of Medicine Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine - George Washington University, Washington DC and Director of Interventional Cardiology, Washington Adventist Hospital and also Chief Interventional Cardiologist at Zulekha Hospital in Dubai has performed over 2000 such procedures since the Diamond Drill method was invented by Dr. David Auth in 1990 in US.

Later in the day, a similar procedure was also performed at CIRC at Zulekha Hospital in Dubai, on another patient with multiple blockages who had an unsuccessful open heart surgery in the past.

## New procedure to avoid open heart surgery



The new medical procedure promises greater precision as a new alternative for patients with multiple, hard, calcified blockages in their arteries.

Conventional angioplasty was attempted on this patient in Mumbai earlier but failed due to severely hardened and calcified blocks, thus unable to implant a stent.

A patient from the

United Kingdom who previously had failed bypass surgery and five Angioplasties will be having an ultra-sound based intervention (looking inside the artery to see the type of blockage) for arriving upon

appropriate treatment plan on Tuesday.

Being a proponent of the adage "paying it forward" Dr. Shawl also plans to do procedures for patients with no financial assistance from his founda-

tion, "Dr. Fayaz Shawl Philanthropic Foundation."

Dr. Shawl will discuss plans with 20 physicians from US to develop an advanced cardiac centre for UAE and the entire region.

# Diamonds may save your life

JOSEPH GEORGE  
NEWS REPORTER

A Dubai-based diamond merchant was successfully treated for his heart ailment yesterday at a local hospital using his "own product" – a sharp-edged diamond.

A cardiologist trained in the United States, Dr Fayaz Shawl, performed the first "Diamond Drill" procedure in the UAE, at Zulekha Hospital in Dubai.

The procedure, which uses a tiny diamond, promises greater precision and a new alternative for sick patients with multiple, hard, calcified blockages in the arteries to their hearts.

This new complex, non-surgical heart procedure was performed on Harshad Mehta, as he lay awake, and was the first attempt at opening multiple blockages in the UAE.

"About 15 per cent of human beings have a heart that is as hard as a rock. It is best to use this method with a diamond to rectify the problem," said Dr Shawl.

The Diamond Drill is a safer, less invasive alternative for patients who previously had little hope for resuming

a normal life owing to the severely calcified blockages in their hearts.

During the procedure, a small catheter is painlessly threaded through an artery into the heart. A fine rotating diamond burr of about 1.55 millimetres is then inserted to clear and remove the blockage within the artery.

The use of a sharp diamond ensures clearing of the most stubborn of the hardened and calcified blockages.

Dr Kishen Pakkal the chief operation officer of Zulekha Hospital reported before the procedure yesterday that, "Dr Shawl is attempting an interventional procedure.

His specialty is that he deals with complicated cases and comes out with excellent results. That is why his presence here becomes even more special."

As a leading interventionist cardiologist, Dr Shawl specialises in avoiding open-heart

surgery and works on the heart with only a minimum of bodily invasion, usually by utilising a catheter inserted through the groin.

Dr Shawl is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University and Director of Interventional Cardiology at Washington Adventist Hospital. He has recently taken up the position of Chief Interventional Cardiologist at the Zulekha Hospital.



■ Dr Shawl performed the new, non-surgical procedure on Harshad Mehta while he was awake

# Shawl's safety drill is a success

## Diamond merchant gets diamond drill to save his heart at Zulekha Hospital

AMERICA-BASED cardiologist Dr. Fayaz Shawl, along with his team performed the first 'Diamond Drill' to open multiple blockages in UAE at Zulekha Hospital, Dubai to avoid open heart surgery. This procedure promises greater precision as a new alternative for patients with multiple, hard, calcified blockages in their arteries. This new complex non-surgical heart procedure, carried out on Harshad Mehta was the first attempt at opening multiple blockages in UAE on Jan 29, while Mr. Mehta lay awake. The procedure was a success and Mr. Mehta was ready to go home in 24



Dr. Fayaz Shawl

hours.

The Diamond Drill is a safer, less invasive alternate for patients who previously had little hopes for resuming a normal life owing to the calcified blockages. During this procedure a small catheter is painlessly threaded through an artery into the heart. A fine rotating diamond Burr of about 1.55 mm at 150,000 to 170,000 revolutions per minute is then inserted to clear and remove the blockage within the artery. The usage of diamond ensures clearing of the most stubborn, hardened and calcified blockages.

Dr. Fayaz Shawl (MD, FACP, FCCP, FACC, FSCAI), Clinical Professor of Medicine & Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine - George Washington University, Washington DC, Director - Interventional Cardiology, Washington Adventist Hospital, USA and Chief interventional Cardiologist at Zulekha Hospital, Dubai has performed over 2000 such procedures since the Diamond Drill method was invented by Dr. David Auth in 1990 in USA. Having mastered the complicated cardiac procedures,

Being a practitioner of the adage 'paying it forward' Dr. Shawl also plans to do procedures for patients with no financial assistance from his foundation Dr. Fayaz Shawl Philanthropic Foundation saying, "I sincerely believe, as my late father did, that the more you give, the more you receive." Dr. Shawl also plans to discuss plans with 20 physicians from USA to develop an advanced cardiac centre for UAE and the entire region. His vision to generate a pool of Cardiac Specialists from this part of the world has taken definite shape in the establishment of CIRC at Zulekha Hospital. ■