

Aug 24 2006,
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North Wales

Weekly News

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THIRD WORLD MEDICAL CARE

Heart patient sings praises of Indian hospital

A RETIRED businessman who was told he was dying from a heart condition in 2003 was so frustrated by the health care he received in the UK that he flew more than 4,000 miles to be treated in India.

Stan Ayres, of Penrhyn, Beach East, Penrhyn Bay, has been trying to get his debilitating heart condition sorted since being diagnosed with atrial fibrillation three years ago.

But every time he felt he was getting somewhere, more obstacles were put in the way.

"It started in 2000 when I went for a cystoscopy," explained Stan. "The doctors asked if I was in general good health, and I said I got a bit puffed going up the stairs, and from there I was referred to another doctor and put on drugs."

It turned out Stan has a heart condition which causes the upper chambers of his heart to beat excessively fast, resulting in problems with the heart's ventricles, meaning blood can't be pumped round the body properly.

Nothing happened until 2003, when Stan

the condition.

"I was in America and saw a new procedure that involved zapping the heart with electric rays after opening up the chest. I asked about this, but in the UK they ask for huge amounts of money."

"I was supposed to see a doctor in Liverpool, but he broke his foot. I tried Germany, but the hospital went on strike. I was banging my head against a brick wall!"

Eventually, Stan discovered a hospital in India.

"I got in touch with Taj Medical and they were superb," he said. "They came back to me promptly with how much it would cost to have the treatment. They said it would be £1,800 all in - they wanted more than £10,000 in the UK."

Last month Stan and wife Christina flew out to Mumbai for the treatment.

"It was after midnight when we got there but there was a car waiting to take us to hospital," explained Stan.

"How many places would say that? Most would just take your money and run."

"Thinking on his feet, Stan didn't want to have a wasted journey."

"I asked them to have a look at my waterworks and varicose veins, and I even had my teeth done. The operation was fantastic. With three surgeons on hand to make sure everything went well."

HEALTH TRIP:

Retired Stan Ayres, of Penrhyn Bay, had an 8,000 mile round trip for medical treatment he couldn't secure, or afford, in Britain.

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"When we got there I had a private room with two beds, TV, computer, fridge, fresh fruit juice, everything was on hand. A nurse looked after me all the time and it was kept so clean - no mention of MRS.A."

Stan was also impressed with the quality of medical care he got.

"The doctors there are experts from all over the world," he said.

"The hospital is an associate of Harvard University. They checked me out and said the operation would not be needed because there would be a high chance of a relapse."

"After a three-week stay in India, Stan is now home and cannot sing their praises enough."

"I have no regrets, the price was fantastic. I recommend that other people do this because it is so much better than the service over here."

