

Medical breakthrough



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DR AL ABBASI



Advanced colorectal cancer surgery performed by a team of doctors at BDF hospital

● **TaTME procedure explored first time in the Kingdom for colorectal surgeries.**

● **Professor Luigi Boni, Chief of Surgery at the University of Milan, supervised the surgery at BDF.**

TDT/ Manama Harpreet Kaur

In a groundbreaking surgery, a new laparoscopic technique was successfully performed at the Bahrain Defence Hospital to remove a colorectal tumor from a patient.

Consultant general surgeon Dr Thamer Abbasi, supervised by Professor Luigi Boni, Chief of Surgery at the University of Milan, led the surgery which is considered to be a medical milestone for the Kingdom, which is an emerging hub of medical tourism.

Speaking to Tribune, Dr Al Abbasi said, "The procedure is commonly called the TaTME Procedure. It can be considered a medical milestone. The most important challenge in cancer surgery



is to remove all cancerous cells in the body. The effort becomes a bit complicated in colorectal surgery. Sometimes we have to remove everything, the muscles and even the colon completely."

The surgeon said TaTME is one of the latest procedures to deal with colorectal cancers. "TaTME is a very new procedure, we are probably one of the first centres in the Gulf to perform a surgery like this. It is very exciting to be a part of a groundbreaking initiative like this. Professor Luigi Boni came down to help start the programme. The best part is that it is a minimum invasive surgery.

When asked about the number of colorectal cancer cases in Bahrain, he said, "The incidence of colorectal cancer (CRC) in the Kingdom, based on the latest cancer registry cases in Gulf Cooperation Council countries, was 40/100,000 in men and 32/100,000 in women. Moreover, when compared to other Gulf countries, Bahrain has highest incidence rates for the disease. CRC is a disease mainly affecting middle-aged and elderly people with a majority being diagnosed after the age of 50 years."

He said the Kingdom needed more steps to tackle these rising number of cases. "We don't have a national screening programme, and we can detect the disease at early stages by conducting colonoscopy on patients who are susceptible to the disease."

Dr Al Abbasi said the authorities should immediately implement such screening programmes. "A new study carried out by the American Cancer Society has showed increasing cases of colorectal cancer among young people, adults in their 20s and 30s.

"I think, a little more efforts will take us a long way when it comes to performing major surgeries in the Kingdom. We need such groundbreaking surgeries to boost the Kingdom's status as a medical hub in the region."

Never ignore symptoms



- Blood in or on the stool
- Change in bowel habits
- Stools that are narrower than usual
- General stomach discomfort (bloating, fullness, and/or cramps)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea, constipation, or feeling that the bowel does not empty completely
- Frequent gas pains
- Weight loss for no apparent reason
- Rectal bleeding
- Constant tiredness, or new fatigue during activity that was previously tolerated

Commander of Royal Medical Services, Major General Professor Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, praised the efforts of the team of doctors at the BDF hospital, who performed the surgery.



Two British School of Bahrain students, Bianca Govind and Tanisha Banerjee have received a scholarship offered by the French Embassy to attend a prestigious two-week French language summer camp in Nice.

Bandar Al Dar jetty project on track



Works Ministry officials inspect the site

Manama

Work on the Bandar Al Dar jetty in Sitra is on good track, as 85 per cent of the scheme has already completed, it emerged.

Maintenance director at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Huda Mirza Abbas, paid an inspection visit to the worksite, accompanied by engineers in charge of the project.

Marine Resources consultant Ibtissam Khalaf was also

present at the worksite. The work team gave a presentation detailing different stages of the project which is nearing completion. Mr Abbas directed the contractor and engineer to complete the BD79,000 project in accordance with pre-set deadline.