



Press Release

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**Union Hospital Charity Programme
Launches Charitable Transcatheter Renal Denervation Procedures
Helping Patients with Resistant Hypertension**

Union Hospital has always been committed to charitable activities throughout the years. Established in 2006, the Union Hospital Charity Programme has been helping the sick and needy with free surgical operations and medical. The programme today announces to free Transcatheter Renal Denervation ("TRenD") Procedures, aiming to help patients with resistant hypertension.

Transcatheter Renal Denervation Procedures

Hypertension is a common disease and widely known as the "silent killer" since it often has no initial symptoms. Chronic uncontrolled hypertension can threaten a patient's health or significantly influence the quality of life and lead to long-term serious complications such as retinopathy, aortic dissection, kidney failure, heart failure and stroke, may lead to death. Resistant hypertension is defined as patients with persistent hypertension (systolic blood pressure > 160mmHg), despite taking at least three different types of anti-hypertensive drugs.

Transcatheter Renal denervation is a minimally invasive procedure that modulates the input and output of the sympathetic nerves that surround the walls of the arteries leading to the kidneys. These sympathetic nerves have been found to play a key role in blood pressure regulation. "Transcatheter Renal Denervation is done through a guiding catheter which is introduced into the body through the femoral artery in the groin. The radiofrequency emitting catheter will be then placed into the renal artery. The emitted radiofrequency energy will ablate the sympathetic nerves around the renal artery, thereby causing a reduction in blood pressure." Dr. Li Siu Lung, Steven, Director of Union Hospital Heart Centre said.

Application Requirements

The programme will offer 10 quotas for the TRenD procedures and applicants must fulfill the following criteria

- Hong Kong permanent residents
- Systolic blood pressure >160mmHg with treatment of 3 or more anti-hypertensive medications;
- Applicant currently receiving resistant hypertension treatments at public hospital
- Non-emergency case

Dr Anthony Lee, Chief Hospital Manager and Medical Director of Union Hospital said, “The charity programme was launched in 2006, aiming to provide the needy with free surgical operations and medical care. To date a number of such operations have been successfully carried out including breast cancer surgery, lung cancer surgery, cochlear implantation, acoustic neuroma surgery, brainstem haemangioma removal, paediatric urological operation, spinal cord release operation, percutaneous coronary intervention, etc. We believe this charitable TRenD procedures will give a helping hand to the Hong Kong residents who are being affected by the problem of resistant hypertension. Minimally invasive procedure and other advanced surgical operations have become more available to the general public. In this Charity Programme, more patients can receive suitable treatment promptly and share the fruits of medical advancement. “

Referrals from Charitable Organizations

Union Hospital welcomes charitable organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to refer eligible patients for the TRenD procedures. For enquiry, please contact Union Hospital at 2608 3456.

About Union Hospital

Union Hospital, which is the only private hospital in the Eastern New Territories, was established in 1994. It is a progressive and contemporary hospital service provider, fully accredited by various international and local institutions. Union Hospital is committed to delivering quality healthcare in the community and beyond, and has developed a reputation for patient-centric services, state-of-the-art technology and premium facilities.

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