



沙田國際醫務中心仁安醫院
SHATIN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE
UNION HOSPITAL



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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Union Heart Centre In-service with the
First-ever Full Integration of the IVUS Functionality in
Catheterization Laboratory in Asia**

Second killer – Cardiovascular disease

That one in every ten deaths results from cardiovascular disease makes it to be the second killer of people in Hong Kong. According to a forecast by the World Health Organization (WHO), number of victims from cardiovascular disease around the world would rank from the 5th position in 1990 to the 1st in 2020.

Coronary arteries maintain blood flow to the heart muscle and provide nutrients and oxygen to support the heart function. When atherosclerosis is developed in inner wall of coronary arteries, the blood vessels would be narrowed, causing insufficient blood supply to the heart muscles. Without appropriate treatment, serious complications and disabilities may occur.

First-ever full integration of the IVUS functionality in catheterization laboratory in Asia

With increasing prevalence of the disease and an ageing population, there is a rising demand for such medical service. In view of this, Union Hospital pioneered to set up the first private cardiac centre in the New Territories. The Union Heart Centre is equipped with many state-of-the-art facilities, which includes the first integrated intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) system in Asia. This system involves full integration of General Electric Medical System (GE)'s Innova 2100^{IQ}, a cardiovascular flat panel X-ray system with Volcano IVUS s5i intravascular ultrasound system and only ten such systems are available worldwide. Its Virtual Histology™ capability, a major breakthrough in intra-vascular ultrasound technology, has markedly improved the diagnostic ability of IVUS.

Flat Panel Detector Innova 2100^{IQ} Imaging System to provide excellent image quality in low radiation dose for patients

The cardiac catheterization laboratory is set up with full operating theatre standard, which is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. It has installed the Innova 2100^{IQ} Imaging System from GE Healthcare – the pioneer of flat panel imaging technology, which has, among many other advances, the following features:

- ◆ Unique patented positioning technologies help to reduce radiation exposure and to provide clear and precise images
- ◆ Coverage area is 30% more than that of conventional panels which, in addition to its cardiac function, ensures better viewing for carotid and other peripheral procedures.

With all these equipments and facilities, cardiac interventional procedures can be performed in a shorter time with more accuracy and safety.

One-stop solution for complete cardiac services

Union Heart Centre offers a one-stop solution for a full range of cardiac problems to meet the health care needs of the community, including Non-invasive Tests, Out-patient Cardiac Clinic, Cardiac Health Check Program, Diagnostic and Interventional Procedures in Cardiovascular Catheterization Laboratory, Open Heart Surgery Service and Cardiac Rehabilitation Program.

Health care professionals provide round-the-clock service

Union Heart Centre also provides a 24-hour emergency primary angioplasty service for acute coronary syndrome and myocardial infarction. It is equipped with the most advanced life supporting systems including portable cardiopulmonary bypass system, which can support even the most hemodynamically unstable patients. Open heart surgery is now available and the ICU is expanded with a full dedicated team of nurses specialized in coronary care and post open-heart surgery care.

Open Heart Surgery

Union Hospital is the first hospital in Hong Kong to acquire the latest Stockert S5 heart-lung machine, which is the most advanced system that provides the greatest safety and efficiency during open heart surgery.

In Union Heart Centre, our dedicated team of nursing and medical staff is now ready to provide a world-class cardiac service for our clients.

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This press release is released by AQ Communications Limited on behalf of The Union Heart Centre of Union Hospital. For media enquiry, please contact:

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About Union Hospital (www.union.org)

Union Hospital was established in the year 1994 and is the first private general hospital in the Eastern New Territories. In September 2006, the Hospital launched its new HK\$210m extension, adding 4 new floors of wards and suites to the hospital boosting capacity by over 55% or about 110 additional beds (300 beds in total). The new floors include Day Therapy Centre, Surgical Ward, Private Ward – Junior, Presidential, Premier, Royal Suites and Minimally Invasive Centre (MIC).

Unique Features

Hotel-Style Services and Facilities

- Union Hospital delivers premium, patient-centric medical care in a quality hotel style environment. Use of odour free cleansing agents and a contemporary interior design that is both practical and stylish further enhances ward environment to increase patient comfort and speed recovery.

Flat Rate Pricing

- Medical imaging, pathology, nursing services and medications are all charged at a uniform rate across all classes of accommodation (except for private/presidential suites).

Set-Price Operation Packages

- A pioneer in introducing a comprehensive range of Operation Packages including the fees of surgeon, anesthesia (except endoscopy packages), essential pre-operative investigation, instrument, equipment and consumable for operation, post-operative care, in-patient and subsequent costs for operation related complication, that provides greater flexibility in budgeting and payment.

Transparency in Pricing

- Detailed costing are published in the hospital's pamphlets, website and displayed in prominent areas, as well as on patients' medical bill for easy reference and transparency.

CUHK Collaboration

- Union Hospital collaborates closely with the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The partnership has resulted in the set up of numerous 'speciality' clinics at the hospital.

OR1™ – The Operating Room in the Future

- Union Hospital is the first hospital in Hong Kong to acquire the most advanced operating system (KARL STORZ OR1™) which allows for complete control of the entire operation and live demonstration for teaching and training purposes.

Community Outreach

- Union Hospital is committed to supporting and developing the community's health and well being through ongoing promotion of primary care, and disease prevention and health education seminars, exhibitions and check-ups.

Comprehensive Medical Information on Website

- Apart from off-line health care promotion, Union hospital provides a wide range of medical articles and videos about health prevention and treatment of diseases on its website.

Customer/Patient Feedback

- Union Hospital strives to meet higher and higher standards of patient care. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged to ensure constant upgrading of services and prompt responses to complaints and inquiries.