

My name is Stanley and I am 76 years of age. I live in the Llandudno area of North Wales and moved to Penrhyn Beach in the late 90s . I had purchased a house that required renovating so for a while lived in Ross on Wye in Herefordshire. Every weekend, very early, I would drive from Ross to Stockport, collect my son and then on to Llandudno to begin work, trying to be at the new home by 9:30am. After six months of this and after moving in I arranged to have a Cystoscopy. When already gowned and pre-op medicated the consultant asked me if I was feeling well; I replied that I was getting out of breath when I climbed inclines and stairs, to this he immediately carried out an ECG procedure, stopped the operation and sent me to my GP to be put on drugs to control 'Atrial Fibrillation' which is what he had uncovered. I was then referred to Bangor Hospital for exercise tests to determine the effects this would have on my heart and blood pressure. The doctor in charge at Bangor took me off the exercise regime very quickly stating my heart was in a bad condition! Now worried, and realising a referral to a heart consultant would take months on the NHS I arranged to have an angiogram privately at Manchester Royal Hospital. This was carried out and my medication was changed to Digoxin each morning with Warfarin, Asprin and Atenolol each evening after dinner.

After some time I moved to a different area and saw a new GP who decided to investigate and as a result took me off the Atenolol. In 2005/6 I then went to winter vacation in Florida and chose to attend a seminar at Clearwater Hospital which was looking at the latest minimally invasive procedure to shock the irregular heartbeat back into rhythm. Upon my return to the UK I arranged to see a Consultant in Liverpool who specialised in this. Unfortunately he broke his foot two days before my appointment so I was left to research where else this procedure was being carried out and Germany was highlighted. At last I found a German Hospital, but then the nurses went on strike! Not being deterred I contacted Wockhardt Hospital in Mumbai. I flew over with my wife and after 6 days of super accommodation and treatment in their Medical Tourism section, was informed that the results of this procedure could reverse in 1, 7, 28 or 365 days so they advised against this. Still determined to find some improvement and as I was there I decided to have three other procedures carried out, not related to my heart condition, resulting in a 21 day stay. I cannot praise the staff and treatment sufficiently, but would go back tomorrow as I was so satisfied.

I carried on, reasonably mobile, but just after Christmas 2009, whilst in Florida, gradually lost my ability to swim, take long walks, cycle etc. Partially because my hip had deteriorated badly and I was feeling more fatigued each day. We returned to the UK at the end of February and since then I have been fighting the NHS to get my hip replaced as well as trying to get a film growth lazered off my eye, problem determined late last February, told 18 week wait!! Being aware that any effort to try to see a heart consultant would involve several months, I was forced to arrange to see a heart consultant privately. This appointment was very recent, he spent fifty minutes with me compared with the ten minutes allowed on the NHS. He is having extensive X-rays done this week and next week I will have a monitor attached to my body and hung around my neck for 24 hours to see the stress on my heart and blood pressure. I am dropping off the very extensive range of X-rays and DVD given to me

by Wockhardt Hospital so that my doctor can determine if any further deterioration has taken place over the last four years. He has already said that he wants me to restart taking Atenolol, so I am hopeful that this 'spending of the children's inheritance' will benefit me and enable me to spend more time with my extended family.

I had a monitor fitted and will return it in a week. I do not know if the consultant will be asking to see me to discuss the outcome of the monitor check. The previous week's Echo-Cardiogram will also be resumed if he has had time to compare the ECG results with the Indian ones taken four years ago.

I now wait to find out more.