

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSHRC) Performs the World's First Fully Robotic Heart Transplant

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, September 13, 2024 / EINPresswire.com/ -- In a globally groundbreaking achievement, <u>King</u> <u>Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research</u> <u>Centre (KFSHRC)</u> successfully performed the world's first fully robotic heart transplant on a 16-year-old patient suffering from end-stage heart failure.



This pioneering achievement, overcoming the significant medical challenges associated with

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The success of the world's first robotic heart transplant marks a transformative leap for Saudi Arabia's journey toward global leadership in specialized medicine, in line with Saudi Vision 2030." *H.E. Dr. Majid Al Fayyad, CEO* of KFSHRC such procedures, reinforces Saudi Arabia's leadership in healthcare and highlights KFSHRC's ability to innovate medical practices that enhance treatment outcomes and patient experiences.

The two and half hours long procedure was performed by an exceptional medical team led by Saudi cardiac surgeon, Dr. Feras Khaliel, Head of Cardiac Surgery and Director of the Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery Program at KFSHRC, following weeks of meticulous preparation.

The process began with detailed theoretical planning to

ensure precision and minimize potential risks. The team then devised a surgical approach to access the heart and perform the transplant without opening the chest. To ensure the effectiveness of the innovative approach, the team practiced the procedure virtually seven consecutive times over three days before performing it on the patient.

After receiving approval from the hospital's medical committee and the patient's family, Dr. Feras Khaliel assembled a medical team prioritizing harmony and coordination among its members. Prior to the surgery, the team leader provided a thorough briefing on the operation plan, clearly defining each member's role to ensure the patient's safety and the procedure's success.

This achievement marks a significant shift in heart transplant surgery, moving away from traditional chestopening procedures that require long recovery periods, often lasting weeks or months and limiting the patient's ability from performing basic daily activities. The use of robotic technology allows for minimally invasive surgery, reducing pain, shortening recovery time, and minimizing the risk of complications, thereby significantly improving patients' quality of life and accelerating their recovery.

H.E. Dr. Majid Al Fayyad, CEO of KFSHRC, hailed this achievement as a significant advancement in heart transplantation, since the historic first heart transplant performed in the 1960s. He emphasized that "the success of the world's first robotic



Dr. Feras Khaliel, Head of Cardiac Surgery and Director of the Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery Program at KFSHRC

heart transplant marks a transformative leap, not only for our institution but also for Saudi Arabia's journey toward global leadership in specialized medicine, in line with Saudi Vision 2030, which places innovation at the core of its efforts to improve quality of life".

H.E. added," This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our visionary leadership, who have prioritized the development of the healthcare sector, paving the way for a transformative leap in healthcare services, unlocking new possibilities to elevate the quality of life for patients both locally and globally."

This breakthrough aligns with KFSHRC's ongoing commitment to medical innovation, leveraging all available resources to improve treatment outcomes, patient experiences, and operational efficiency. The hospital strives to be the top choice for specialized healthcare, extending its services to a broader range of patients.

As a leading training centre in robotic organ transplant surgeries, KFSHRC contributes to advancing global understanding of minimally invasive organ transplants by collaborating with medical institutions worldwide to train their medical teams and achieve better outcomes, further elevating global medical practices.

It is noteworthy that KFSHRC has been ranked first in the Middle East and Africa and 20th globally in the list of the world's top 250 Academic Medical Centres for the second consecutive year and recognized as the most valuable healthcare brand in the Kingdom and the Middle East, according to the 2024 Brand Finance rankings. Additionally, in the same year, it was ranked among the world's best 250 hospitals by Newsweek magazine.

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