

Vietnamese Lady Seeks Singapore Surgeon Help In Curing Persistent Headaches

Seven months ago, 43 year old Vietnamese lady Dinh Thi Nguyetminh started to suffer from a series of strange headaches that plagued her. These headaches just refused to go away. Compounded to that, she started having double vision, speech problems and experienced difficulty in balance, walking and co-ordination.

Worried by these health matters, Minh consulted her doctor back in Vietnam who, after a thorough examination, advised her to go for a MRI scan. She was shocked to learn from the results of the scan that she had a brain tumor. That was a mere three months ago.

The head of neurosurgery at Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam advised her to undergo surgery here and referred her to a well-known neurosurgeon here in Singapore.

"We didn't consider other countries in the region or the western countries," said Minh's sister, Hang. "We came to Singapore because it was the most developed city in terms of medicine in Asia."

They felt that Singapore was well-located geographically and quickly accessible should it be needed for Minh to have more medical help if there were complications after her surgery, during her recuperation period back in Vietnam.

Minh quickly corresponded with the neurosurgeon here in Singapore via a flurry of emails immediately after her Vietnamese doctor's referral. Within a month, Dinh Thi Nguyetminh arrived at Mount Alvernia Hospital in Singapore. Four days later, she went under the knife, for an 18 hour surgery, to remove her brain tumor.

Her doctor, Dr. Timothy Lee, pronounced her on the way to a speedy recovery after the surgery with all her nerves preserved though she was experiencing some temporary weakness in her facial regions.

Both Minh and her sister, Hang, are happy with the help and care they have received here in Singapore, especially with the hospital and are resolute that should they require health care for any other medical problems, they would still return to this "clean, beautiful" island.

Minh and Hang have since returned to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, comforted by the fact of a successful surgery and wowed by the level of professional, caring service they have received at the hospital here.



A case of a simple headache?

A **headache or migraine** may seem insignificant or unimportant but it is especially important to consult your doctor if your headache or migraine is a regular, recurring event.

Your general physician or family doctor will first perform a complete physical examination and a headache evaluation. Your doctor will evaluate in detail, your headache history, symptoms and characteristics to ensure an accurate headache diagnosis.

A headache evaluation may also include a CT scan or MRI if your doctor suspects that the headache is caused by a central nervous system disorder.

Treatment options for Brain Tumor?

In the majority of brain tumor cases, surgery to remove the benign / malignant tumor is required. Your highly skilled and experienced neurosurgeon's objective would be to remove the tumor with minimum injury or damage to the brain as is possible. This is because brain tissue is extremely delicate and is easily damaged by excessive pressure or interference to its blood supply.

Radisurgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, medication and rehabilitation may also be part of the treatment programme that your neurologists' approach to combat this growth.



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Mount Alvernia Hospital
www.mtalvernia-hospital.org
820 Thomson Road, Singapore 574623

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