

Journey of Neurosurgery In Bangladesh: Past And Present Perspective

Neurosurgery is not only one of the most young surgical sub-specialities, but it is also one of the most rapidly evolving discipline of medical science that has brought revolution across the globe.

The journey of neurosurgery in Bangladesh started 53 years from today. Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed established the first Neurosurgery unit in the then Institute of Postgraduate Medical Research (IPGMR) with only six beds in 1970. He is considered as the founder of Neurosurgery in Bangladesh. Professor AHM Ahsanullah started Neurosurgery in IPGMR in 1972. Professor Ata Alahi Khan started Neurosurgery in Dhaka Medical College Hospital in 1975. Professor Lutful Anwar Quadery started Neurosurgery in Chittagong Medical College Hospital in 1978. They were the first generation Neurosurgeons of Bangladesh. None of them are among us today.

Bangladesh started her Neurosurgical journey with only the four pioneers which is now about 240.

The first CT scanner was a second generation machine at BIRDEM in 1987. First MRI machine was 0.3 Tesla at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in 1996. At present, 256 slice CT scanner and 3 Tesla MRI machines are available in the country specially in Dhaka. CT angiogram, 3D reconstruction of bones, MR angiography, MR spectrography, Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI), Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) are now widely available.

Japan donated two operative microscopes (Carl Zeiss) to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in 1996 and that was the real game changer. Neurosurgeons gradually became habituated in its use and the postoperative mortality and morbidity began to fall dramatically. Now a days Tivato 700 and Kinevo 900, Leica and also other latest models of microscopes are being used at many centres.

Another milestone in the development of Neurosurgery is the introduction of endoscope. First endoscopic third ventriculostomy was done in 2005 in Dhaka

Medical College Hospital. First endoscopic endonasal transsphenoidal pituitary surgery began in between 2005-06. Now a day, we do purely endoscopic surgeries such as ETV, complex HCP, multiloculated cyst, pituitary macro and micro adenoma, craniopharyngioma, sellar and suprasellar meningioma, ventricular tumours, skull base tumours etc. In some cases endoscope is used as an adjunct, in some cases combination of microscope and endoscope are commonly used. All these endeavours improved surgical outcomes greatly. Endoscopic spine surgery was started in Bangladesh by Prof. Mohammad Hossain. He started intralaminar lumbar endoscopic discectomy (Destandau's technique) in 2005 and percutaneous transforaminal lumbar endoscopic discectomy in 2009 and he presented a scientific paper on endoscopic spine surgery in first Neuro Spine Conference in 2011. Recently some of our young neurosurgeons got training in endoscopic spine surgery and they are doing well in the country. Neuro navigation, Neuro monitoring, CArm, O arm and CUSA are using in many Neurosurgical centres. Endovascular and stroke surgery has developed at DMCH.

To gain neurosurgical knowledge and skills, it is almost impossible without undergoing advanced training and workshops. Bangladesh Society of Neurosurgeons has a relentless endeavour to generate competent Neurosurgeons to keep pace with the explosive state of world Neurosurgery. To achieve this goal, conferences, seminars, CMEs, micro vascular anastomosis programmes, skull base cadaveric workshops, spine cadaveric workshops, live surgeries etc by world famous neurosurgeons are regularly arranged by the society.

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