

News from India

AFA receives enquiries from patients, carers and clinicians from around the world.

John, a member in India, shares his story:

Co-existing Uneasily with AF

In June 2006 I noticed I was breathing with irregularity, so went to a local cardiologist for a check-up. I already had hypertension and was borderline diabetes, now, after tests were carried out, I was diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation. Current drugs continued with Warfarin being added to my daily cocktail. Fear of stroke was uppermost in my mind, and constant exhaustion plagued me.

I looked into other options, but in India there is no National Health Service, and private services are prohibitive due to high costs. So, the position for me, and for that matter, anybody in my country, is precarious so far as advanced medical treatment is concerned.

I am 70 years of age, a retired teacher, but as inflation goes up, I hope that some new medical gadget or invasive method cures me of this ailment with the cost being very, very low. Perhaps

that can only be a distant dream. My physical mobility is slightly compromised now, and each night I sleep with prayers on my lips that there will not be an emergency – this type of care is practically non-existent or extremely expensive.

I look forward to learning more about Atrial Fibrillation and hope one day to meet a kindred soul with whom I can exchange insights and ideas about this ailment.

John

The AFA moderated Forum offers individuals the opportunity to share experiences with fellow AF patients and carers. It is a friendly and supportive forum which protects the individual's contact details while enabling contact. Follow the links from the AFA website: www.atrialfibrillation.org.uk . 'to join'
Alternatively, join AFA at the 2009 AFA Patient Day, Sunday 18th October, further details on page 2.