



WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE AT UNBEATABLE COST

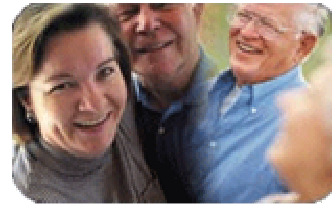


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Medical Tourism In India

Quality Healthcare At An Affordable Cost

Medical Tourism – Background



Medical tourism is the term used where people do not seek healthcare in their country of residence, but are travel to other countries to obtain a variety of medical, dental, and surgical treatments at a cheaper price.

They then combine this with a vacation in the country they are visiting.

Medical tourists benefit from the following:

- Savings of up to 90% on medical treatments
- Receive world class treatments
- Get a free holiday and in many instances still have funds left over

It is these 3 factors that are a major driving force behind the worldwide growth in medical tourism

This report will compare the various countries offering these facilities, the costs savings and the variety of treatments available.

Medical Tourism - Growth

A combination of several factors has led to the recent increase in popularity of medical tourism.

1. High costs of healthcare & reduced travel costs

The costs of healthcare in major industrialized nations tends to be high in relation to the major medical tourism destinations and a major change has occurred that in recent years that allows people to take advantage of this cheaper healthcare abroad:

The dramatic reduction in worldwide travel costs makes seeking medical treatment in these countries more affordable than ever.

2. Growth of quality healthcare treatment abroad.

In recent years the technology and standards of care in many developing countries have seen dramatic improvements and these countries now have standards of healthcare that are on par with any in the USA or Western Europe.

Countries such as India are able to offer healthcare of the same quality, but at a fraction of the cost.

Medical tourism is here to stay, and healthcare tourism looks set for dramatic growth in the coming years as more people become aware of the advantages.

Medical Tourism - Who Are The Medical Tourists?

Medical tourists generally come from North America, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and The Middle East and are traveling for two major reasons:

1. The major industrialized nations healthcare services tend to be expensive
2. Many of these countries have long waiting lists.

Medical Tourism - Destinations

Currently medical tourists are traveling in large numbers to India, the East Indies, South America and South East Asia.

These countries offer numerous options for touring, sight-seeing, shopping, and exploring.

Although these countries are currently the most popular choices, the industry is growing rapidly and many more countries are trying to establish their own medical tourism industries.

The expectation is that the options for medical tourists will continue to increase as healthcare facilities improve around the world, but which country is best?

Here are some of the major destinations and their benefits:

1. Medical Tours South East Asia

South East Asia offers some great advantages for medical tourism with Thailand being a major destination and the main rival to India.

The Thai medical profession is the most advanced in the region and successive governments have invested heavily in ensuring high standards.

Many medical staff undertake specialist training abroad, particularly in the United States and Europe.

Singapore and Malaysia are also well established as medical tourism destinations.

2. Medical Tours East Indies

For North American patients, the East Indies and Costa Rica are popular destinations, as they provide close, inexpensive, high-quality medical care without long distance travel.

In terms of cost, these destinations are more expensive for medical tourists generally and particularly for patients from countries outside of the USA, but quality of treatment are high.

3. Medical Tours South America

Medical tourism in South America is mainly concentrated on Brazil, which is a well established centre for plastic surgery.

With a large influx of medical tourists particularly from the North America, it has built a solid reputation in many areas of healthcare.

Although more expensive than many other destinations, you are assured of good quality healthcare in one of the most beautiful countries on earth.

Argentina also has a flourishing medical tourism industry, but its geographical position is problem for many.

3. The Rest Of The World

Medical tourism is growing in other countries with Eastern Europe, Africa and Dubai entering the industry.

Eastern Europe and Africa are emerging markets, but probably have some way to go to match the healthcare services available in countries such as India

The Acknowledged Leader In Medical Tourism

There are many choices for medical tourists as we have seen above and many destinations have reasons to recommend them, but overall for medical tourists, it will be India that will be the most attractive. Why?

India has a wide variety of treatments, world class hospitals and medical staff, and is the most cost effective centre in terms of treatments.

In India you get world class healthcare at a competitive cost. Low costs are an attraction but its quality treatment that most clients want – India gives both.

The Advantages Of India

Ten years ago, medical tourists traveling to India were very small number, just 150,000 in 2002.

Today, over half a million foreign patients traveled to India in 2005 and this number is forecast to reach several million in the next few years and cement India's position as the number 1 destination for medical tourism.

The advantages of India include

1. Government Support

Medical tourism has seen such growth that Indian finance minister Jaswant Singh, called recently for India to become a "global health destination."

This enthusiasm for making medical tourism a major foreign exchange revenue generator has strong support among local government and industry.

The ministry of tourism, various state tourism boards and the private sector:

Made up of travel agents and tour operators, are all contributing to develop the industry.

A newspaper article in "India Abroad" outlined the huge potential for medical tourism.

It highlighted a potential deal where India could earn more than \$1 billion annually and generate 4 million jobs by sub-contracting work from the British National Health Service.

A huge advantage of course is the cost:

Surgery costs in India can be one-tenth of those in the United States or Western Europe. The savings sound very attractive, but this has to be combined with top quality medical facilities and it is.

2. World Class Facilities

Inferior medical care would not be worth having at any price, however the hospitals and clinics in India are some of the best in the world, and most are staffed by medical staff that have been trained and worked in the major industrialized nations.

3. Doctors

Indian doctors and medical staff have a huge presence in the healthcare services in many countries and the quality of these staff has given confidence and encouraged patients to visit India.

4. Medical research

India is a major innovator in global medical research

Biotechnology research has significant investment and India is a leader in stem cell research at a level approached only by Britain.

5. Broad Range Of Treatments

India has world class healthcare facilities for heart surgery, hip and knee replacement, cosmetic surgery, dentistry, bone marrow transplants and cancer therapy. In fact, all major areas surgical and cosmetic treatments are covered.

The Indian Advantage

India is already one of the biggest destinations for medical tourists and looks set to maintain and build on its reputation.

Unlike many of its competitors in medical tourism, India has the technological base and infrastructure to stay ahead of its competition for years to come.

For instance, Indian pharmaceuticals meet the requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Indian hospitals also provide services that are simply not available elsewhere.

For example, hip surgery patients in India can have a hip-resurfacing procedure, where damaged bone is replaced with chrome alloy, an operation that costs less and causes less trauma than traditional procedures.

Treatments & Costs

Cosmetic surgery

Breast reduction - mammoplasty

This is an operation which removes the excess fat and skin from the breasts. They are then reshaped and the nipples repositioned to form newer and smaller breasts.

This breast reduction surgery normally results in more attractive breasts.

There are several different surgical designs to reshape the breasts and are illustrated opposite. All of them will involve a scar around the areola of the breast.

Each method will use different scars and will have advantages and disadvantages and your consultant will select with your approval the best breast reduction technique that's right for you.

Breast reduction surgery / mammoplasty may be used to correct asymmetry of the breast, where one breast is much larger than the other and where it is considered to be the least normal of the pair.

Breast augmentation, breast implants

There are many ways to perform breast enlargement.

The method is tailored to the individual needs of the patient. The idea is to create a pocket under the breast tissue and place an implant into the pocket to make the breast larger.

The breast enlargement operation is done under either local anesthetic or general anesthetic

Breast Uplift Mastopexy, mastopexia

In both breast augmentation and reduction the aim is to change the size of the breast, whereas mastopexy (breast uplift) will change just the shape.

As nothing can be done to restore the breasts former elasticity, the only solution is to remove sections of excess skin.

The results of this operation are usually excellent and patients will see less drooping and firmer breasts with the nipples in a higher position.

Ear surgery Otoplasty, pinnaplasty, correction of bat ears, ear pinning

Correction of prominent ears, or ear plastic surgery, may be carried out individually or simultaneously with other face surgeries.

Ear cosmetic surgery can be carried out under general anesthetic, or local anesthetic. These incisions are generally placed behind the ear and occasionally in front.

The cartilage of the ear is remodeled and, on occasions, some of the cartilage may be removed. The stitches are absorbable and do not need to be removed.

After ear plastic surgery, the ears may be covered with a large head dressing which is worn for around a week for protection. After this it is advisable to wear a tennis head band for six weeks although many patients opt not to do this.

Blepharoplasty, eyelid reduction

This operation removes the surplus skin and fat to give a more youthful appearance to patients.

Sometimes it's only necessary to reduce the skin, sometimes the skin and the fat and sometimes just the fat, depending on the appearance of the individual patient undertaking the surgery.

If only fat is being removed from the lower eyelids, then this can be removed during eyelid surgery from the inside of the lower eyelid, making an external excision.

Facelift - Rhytidectomy

Facelifts are extremely popular and the procedure is tried and tested and reverses the effects of gravity that come with age and refreshes the face, improving the contour of the neck and generally revitalizes the face.

Starting in the temple area, the incision moves down in front of the ear, round the earlobe and up behind the ear before curving back into the hair at the neckline; sometimes an incision under the chin is also conducted.

Using these incisions the skin and deep tissues of the skin are tightened and remodeled and the incisions are then closed.

The doctor will then apply a bandage to the head in order to apply gentle pressure on the incisions for the post operative night.

Liposuction - Fat removal

Liposuction surgery may be carried out on both men and women whose fat is distributed unevenly and is a very popular operation.

It is not a way of reducing weight as many patients believe, it is an alternative method for removing fatty deposits which do not move regardless how much exercise, and massage or dieting is done by the patient.

The liposuction surgery may be performed under general or local anesthesia, depending on the operation the amount of fat that has to be removed.

The time the liposuction operation takes is short and is normally between 30 and 90 minutes, depending upon the extent of the operation.

Less extensive liposculpture can be performed within the day but normally an overnight stay in hospital is needed.

Rhinoplasty Nose job, nose reduction, nose reshaping

The nose reshaping operation is carried out under general anesthesia.

The operation is carried out inside the nostrils, so that there are no scars externally; unless you decide to have the size or the nostrils reduced, in which case small scars around the sides of the nostrils, placed in the natural crease lines between nose and cheek, will remain.

Rhinoplasty is one of the most common of cosmetic operations and gives users increased confidence in their appearance.

Tummy Tuck - Abdominoplasty

This operation is used to remove excess skin and fat from the abdomen.

The majority of patients opting for this procedure are women who, following the birth of their children, dislike the effects childbirth has had on their body shape and wish to change it back to how it was before pregnancy.

This operation is carried out under general anaesthesia and requires a two or three night stay in hospital following the operation.

Cosmetic dentistry

Various Dental procedures are commonly undertaken including General dentistry, Cosmetic dentistry, Orthodontics, Prosthodontics, Periodontics, Oral Surgery etc.

Modern Dental Treatment Facilities in India are available at prices where dentists in the USA and Europe simply cannot compete.

Dental costs might be low, but this does not in anyway affect the quality of the treatments offered.

The most common treatments are below:

- Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry.
- Crown & Bridge for fixed replacement of broken or damaged teeth.
- Surgical removal of impacted teeth.
- Dentures.
- Dental Implants.
- Extractions.
- Tooth Whitening Procedures.
- Dental Surgical Procedures.
- Laser Treatment.
- Root Canal Treatment.
- Orthodontics.

Heart Surgery

Any surgery where the chest is opened and surgery is performed on the heart directly is called open-heart surgery and is an operation that understandably worries most patients.

Getting the Best Care

It is a traumatic operation and most patients want the best possible treatments they can get above all else.

Open-heart surgery costs in India are low compared to the west. In fact, in many instances they are only a tenth of the cost for the same treatments at comparable hospitals in Europe and the USA.

98.5% Success Rate

While cost is a consideration; it is the quality of heart surgery that is the most important factor for most patients.

The success rates in India's top hospitals for heart surgery are an average of 98.50% which is on par with the leading cardiac centers in the world.

Knee Replacement

Knee replacement surgery is one of the most common types of joint replacement surgeries in world today, with more than 250,000 operations performed per year in the USA alone.

Knee replacement surgery (also known as knee joint arthroplasty) is usually undertaken when knee problems associated with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis have resulted in the wearing down of the knee joint.

In a total knee replacement operation, a surgeon cuts away damaged bone and cartilage from the thighbone, shinbone and kneecap, and replaces it with an artificial joint (knee prosthesis) made of metal alloys, plastics or polymers.

Diagnosing Knee Problems

Arthroscopy is a procedure used by orthopaedic surgeons to diagnose and treat knee problems.

The surgeon makes an incision, and then inserts a small instrument called an arthroscope, which gives a clear view of the inside of the knee.

The arthroscope uses fiber optics to send pictures of the inside of the knee to a television monitor. The surgeon can then determine if a knee replacement is necessary.

Knee Replacement Success Rates

Knee replacement surgery is one of the safest surgeries of its kind, and has a 90 to 95% success rate.

However, excessive activity can cause the knee replacement to wear down or loosen and require replacement.

90 to 95% of knee implants are still functioning well 10 to 15 years after surgery, and with moderate activity levels, most knee implants can be expected to last around 12 – 15 years.

Hip Surgery

Hip replacement surgery is one of the most common orthopedic procedures performed in the world, with more than 350,000 operations per year in the United States alone.

Reducing Hip Replacement Costs

Today, you can have the best surgery, and also benefit from hugely reduced costs.

By having your hip replacement operation abroad, you can use the cost savings to enjoy a relaxing holiday.

Hip Replacement Procedure

Recent developments in hip replacement surgery have seen the operation become a safe and reliable method to treat severe hip arthritis pain.

Hip replacement surgery (known also as arthroplasty) is usually undertaken when osteoarthritis has resulted in the wearing down of the hip joint.

In a hip replacement operation, the worn out and arthritic parts of the hip joint are taken out and a new artificial (prosthesis) hip joint is inserted.

Successful hip replacement surgery improves mobility, by improving the function of the hip joint and reducing the discomfort felt by the patient.

How Hip Replacement Surgery is performed

Hip replacement surgery involves removing the ball and socket of the arthritic hip joint.

The surgeon removes the top part of the thighbone (femur), and an implant fits within the central canal of the thighbone.

The surgeon then removes the remaining excess cartilage and bone from the socket part of the joint (within the pelvis), and replaces it with a new socket, allowing free movement at the new joint.

Bone Marrow surgery

Bone marrow transplants costs reflect the complexity of the operation.

An operation in the US costs around \$250,000 and in the UK about £150,000 however the cost can be cut to around 30,000 with the same quality of treatment.

Indian hospitals are performing bone marrow replacement operations to the same standard and with the same success rate as in Europe and America at nearly 90%, at a fraction of the cost.

With such an important operation bone marrow transplant costs are consideration, but even more important is, the quality of the treatment and in India you world class treatments and expertise at your disposal.

Liver Transplants

The liver is the largest organ in the body. It plays an primary role in the processing of substances (both foodstuffs and toxins) absorbed through the gut. Disorders of the liver consequently have a major impact on the wellbeing of the entire body. They include cancers, viral infections (hepatitis A, B, C, D), alcohol related damage (cirrhosis) and auto-immune conditions.

The liver is connected to the gall bladder and pancreas via the biliary tree and so clinical units dealing with liver disorders often deal with these as well

They are therefore known as HPB units - H for Hepato (alternative word for liver), Pcreatic and Biliary.

Private treatment for liver disease may vary widely depending on the condition of the organ and may include any of the following:

Surgery, chemo/radiotherapy and private liver transplants.

Brain and spinal surgery

Hospitals in India offer a comprehensive service in all aspects of diagnosis and treatments for patients with brain and spinal disorders.

From back pain to paralysis and from migraine to stroke, these neurological disorders are all treated common treatments include

- spinal surgery
- treating spinal cord injury
- managing spine problems
- fusion of the spine/spinal fusion
- spinal tumors
- back surgery
- back pain treatment
- cervical or lumbar disc problems

Millions of people have conditions which affect the brain, its spine and the peripheral nervous system and these are some of the most common cause of death and serious disability for people all over the world. Today more people than ever before are traveling to India to take advantage of treatment for these disorders.

There are many more treatments available in India, so if you don't see the ones you require please contact us for a quote.

World Class Treatments – Savings Of Up To 90% - Free Holiday Options

The above three advantages combine to make India the number one choice for medical tourists and Meddetour offer you a service that is designed to take care of everything including:

The arrangement of treatments, all travel arrangements and of course your holiday after any surgery has performed. We will take care of everything to make sure your visit is as stress free and enjoyable as possible

For a free no obligation quote and to find out more about the advantages of India as a medical tourist destination please contact us and we will be delighted to discuss your requirements in greater detail:

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