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On the other hand, there were difficulties in centers and hospitals to cover the expenses or to treat a non-insured patient. As this was a major issue, and people could lose their lives in the process, ICOM had to act fast with the support of the ministry of health, several societies and NGOs to save lives.

Stent for Life Initiative

September 2011 to present

NEW HOPE FOR EGYPTIAN HEARTS...

QUALITY OF LIFE IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL

Project Managed and Organized by IAPCO Member: ICOM, Egypt

The challenge

To minimize the rate of heart disease and its risk factors, initiate a reimbursement system for patients and create public awareness campaigns for patients who experience or even suspect Acute Myocardial Infarction symptoms.

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The solution

Since joining the SFL initiative in 2011, ICOM has been active in creating a professional organizational structure and executing an action plan to help improve the services that support the initiative, by developing a medical team focusing on research and leading patient awareness campaigns as well as the Physician Education meetings in Egypt. In spite of the political status, ICOM succeeded in initiating a network, with all details about the concept, within in the ministry of health, avoiding duplication of work or administration changes within the ministry. This effort was with great support from Dr. Mohamed Sobhy, the SFL-Egypt initiative Champion.

ICOM co-operated with the ministry of health to implement a system for reimbursement to encourage hospitals to apply the SFL system and sign the agreement. Now, 23 centers and hospitals are successfully reimbursed by 10,000 Egyptian pounds for each deserving patient after their fulfilment of all agreed criteria.

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campaigns demonstrated how patients and their carers should act when experiencing, or even suspecting, AMI, as 25-30% of patients actually die before receiving medical attention within 90 minutes of feeling the symptoms. Media campaigns were executed by ICOM by way of radio campaigns, TV advertisements, press releases and social media campaigns to increase awareness about the SFL project.

The outcomes
ICOM played the master role in making the SFL initiative happen in Egypt and led the patient awareness campaigns as well as the Physician Education meetings all over the country. In addition, ICOM also had a major hand in the preparation, negotiation and procedures involving the Ministry of Health together with convincing stake holders to sign the agreement to set a unified system for reimbursement to hospitals and centers.

Besides the success of the scientific and social events, a further milestone was achieved by analyzing the registry’s results through ICOM’s medical team and distributing it through Egypt’s population map, launched March 2013, indicating the patients who need Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (P-PCI). This helped ICOM to get a good insight into the Egyptian patient needs and enabled them to plan for the future according to the population and database collection.

At the present time, with the focused work of ICOM all over Egypt, there are 40 hospitals/medical centers supporting the SFL project, 23 of which were chosen to be pilot centers signing the protocol with the Egyptian Ministry of Health to provide a fair refund.

In co-ordination with the SFL champion, ICOM set up a Committee for the training programs for the SFL members creating a Pilot Center Detection Committee, composed of well-known physicians in charge of developing the hospitals’ network, and to help enroll patients in the reimbursement process.

ICOM had a major role in the paramedics’ training programs and also launched several programs for the referral physicians.

ICOM initiated and setup an online registry (the Egyptian SFL registry) documenting the incidents of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in Egypt. This enabled ICOM to identify the barriers in order to provide a proper cardiovascular care system to this patient population. They are now managing the registry of the patients enrolled in the project which has already reached 5630 patients through the technical portal, monitoring all the records, data and analyzing the results of the study to be published.

Dr Ahmed El Shal (ICOM Chairman) said: “Stent For Life Egypt activities should extend to cover the whole country and as we began by holding public awareness campaigns like “Act now Save a Life”, we have to continue saving lives”.

1 country / 1 mission
6 years
14 cities
40 hospitals piloted
23 hospitals refunded
5630 records in medical registry
More than 20000 patients with close benefits
More than 120 educators
More than 3700 physicians in training
More than 200 technicians / nurse training

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