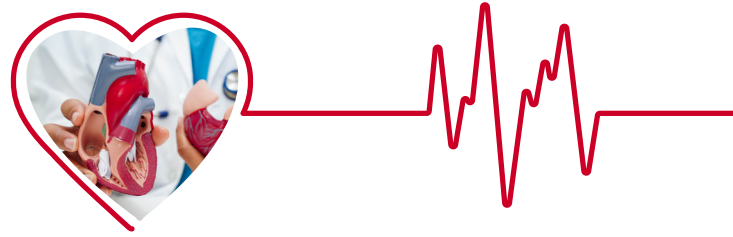


Groundbreaking Cardiac Care at Melomed Richards Bay.

Dr. Lifa Dhlamini Performs Successful PFO Closure.



Melomed Richards Bay hospital proudly announces a major milestone in cardiac care as **Dr. Lifa Dhlamini, a highly skilled cardiologist, successfully performed his first Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) closure procedure at our hospital.** This marks a significant step forward in offering advanced, specialised care to the local community.



The procedure was performed on a 70-year-old patient referred by their local GP for a routine check-up due to a history of cardiac-related illnesses. During the assessment, Dr. Dhlamini identified the presence of a PFO—a small, flap-like opening in the heart that failed to close after birth. The successful closure of the PFO highlights both the expertise of Dr. Dhlamini and the state-of-the-art capabilities of Melomed Richards Bay.

Understanding PFO and Its Complexity

A Patent Foramen Ovale is a congenital heart defect present in approximately 25% of the population. While often asymptomatic, a PFO can pose significant risks in certain individuals. The condition occurs when the foramen ovale, a natural opening between the right and left atria in a fetus, fails to close properly after birth. This can allow unfiltered blood to bypass the lungs, where it would typically be oxygenated and filtered of clots or debris.

For most people, a PFO remains harmless. However, in some cases, it has been linked to conditions such as:

Cryptogenic Stroke: Strokes of unknown origin that can result from clots passing through the PFO.

Transient Ischemic Attacks (TIAs): Mini-strokes that resolve quickly but indicate potential clot-related issues.

Migraine with Aura: Research suggests a potential connection between migraines and the presence of a PFO.

Decompression Sickness: Seen in divers due to bubbles bypassing the lung filtration system.

Closing a PFO is often recommended for patients with a history of stroke or other complications where no other clear cause has been identified. The decision to proceed with closure depends on a detailed risk-benefit analysis tailored to the patient.

The Procedure

A Testament to Expertise Dr. Dhlamini, supported by a dedicated and highly trained medical team, employed a minimally invasive approach to seal the PFO. The procedure involved the use of a catheter, guided through a vein in the groin to the heart. Once in place, a specially designed closure device was deployed to seal the opening permanently. The device integrates seamlessly into the heart tissue over time, ensuring minimal impact on the patient's quality of life.

The success of this procedure underscores the complexity of managing cardiac conditions and the importance of specialised training and technology. Dr. Dhlamini's accomplishment highlights his expertise and dedication, offering hope to patients with similar conditions.

Advancing Healthcare in Richards Bay

The completion of this PFO closure is more than just a procedural success; it represents Melomed Richards Bay's commitment to advancing healthcare services for our community. By bringing such specialised procedures closer to home, we reduce the need for patients to travel to distant facilities, ensuring timely and accessible care.

A Bright Future for Cardiac Care

Melomed Richards Bay continues to set new benchmarks in healthcare delivery. With the addition of specialists like Dr. Lifa Dhlamini and investments in cutting-edge medical technology, we are poised to become a leading hub for advanced cardiac care in the region.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Dhlamini and his team for this remarkable achievement.

To learn more about our cardiology services or schedule a consultation, please contact Melomed Richards Bay.