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Multidisciplinary management for inherited cardiovascular conditions - role of cardiogenetic nurses

Care for the individuals with an inherited cardiovascular condition (ICC) and families are provided in centers with specialists who have expertise in managing a full range of ICC. Specialist ICC services are usually based in major tertiary centers, where regional genetic service is also available. The complex and varied nature of ICCs, implications for other family members, and increase in specialized medical knowledge created a clear need for ICCs to be managed by multi-disciplinary teams. Multidisciplinary work within ICC services is shaped by unique and complex characteristics of inherited cardiovascular conditions. The core team members are Clinical Cardiologists with congenital heart diseases, intervention/ devices and electrophysiological expertise, Clinical Geneticist with a special interest in clinical cardiovascular genetics and genomics and the Cardiogenetic nurse. The aim is to provide holistic care for the patients and their families. The role of cardiac genetic nurses is in coordinating the care for patient with ICC and their families. This entails arranging specialized investigations, clinical appointments, and links with other specialized services depending on individual needs. They also provide emotional and psychological support to affected individuals and their families. Part of this role is to provide clear and easy to understand information on the condition and its symptoms. Within many multi-disciplinary teams' specialist cardiac genetic nurses are the first point of contact for patients' queries.

Biography

Professor Dhavendra Kumar's special interests in clinical genetics include clinical cardiovascular genetics (inherited conditions of heart and blood vessels), genomic medicine and genomic applications in global healthcare. He has authored/edited many textbooks and monographs in the field of clinical genetics and genomic medicine & healthcare. He is passionate for genetics and genomics education and set up the new 'Diploma in Genomic Medicine and Healthcare' course at the University of South Wales. He continues to work and engage in discussion and collaboration for raising awareness and promoting genetics/ genomics for improved healthcare and socio-economic benefits in the emerging economies of the developing world."

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