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GUEST EDITORIAL

In Pakistan, cardiac surgery has been advancing very rapidly during last two decades. There has been tremendous improvement in techniques, patient care and therapeutics. Number of facilities for cardiac surgery has increased many folds.

The question is — Where do we go from here? On one side we see high tech developments seen in the West like robotics, genetic engineering, mechanical hearts, stem cell technology etc. On the other hand, there can be another possibility which is not so fascinating but does have a long term impact. And it is to document our clinical data, create an environment of regular clinical audits and creating a registry.

We all agree that remarkable number of high quality cases are being performed in many centers. But at international forum, this data can't be presented because of the lack of proper documentation. This weakness has been pointed out many times by different members during our annual and biennial conferences. Every body talks about developing a common database during these meetings. But if we minutely look into the matter, strong suspicion arises that probably we have not reached the stage to communicate and discuss our weaknesses with our counter parts in this country. To overcome this problem and take an initiative in the right direction, every institute should be encouraged to develop at least its own database and convert all the documentation into digital format. One day we may be able to combine all these data together and create a national registry.

To day the clinical audits are used as initiative to seek improvement in patient care and quality of treatment. It also helps the clinician to modify and thus improve the practicing guidelines.

It is suggested that instead of going for high tech and fascinating procedure, we should try to consolidate ourselves on solid footing of clinical audits, accountability and at least an institutional database.

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