

# Pakistan Journal of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery

Quarterly - Jan - Jun, 2008

Volume: VII

Index Pakistan No. IP/027

No. 1-2

---

## GUEST EDITORIAL

*Coronary artery bypass grafting surgery is still one of the commonest elective operations being performed in the world today. This is despite a reduced number of referrals by the cardiologists who prefer their patients to have revascularization through percutaneous techniques, rather than surgery.*

*In the West, with this reduced workload, the number of training positions in cardiac surgery has also experienced a decline. Junior doctors now have a propensity to look elsewhere to complete requirements before their surgical examinations. This reduction in the numbers of junior doctors has reflected in the from of fewer graft harvesters in the field of cardiac surgery.*

*To tackle this dilemma, hospitals are now looking towards re-directing trained nursing staff towards harvesting grafts like the saphenous vein and radial artery. Once accepted in the programme, these surgical assistants complete a prescribed training programme which has higher surgical approval before they are drafted as graft harvesters.*

*In Pakistan, centers involved in coronary artery bypass operations should also be looking at employing professional graft harvesters if they want to enhance patient outlook by improving graft survival and patency. Surgical assistants whose only job is harvesting grafts over and over again on daily basis will obviously result in producing grafts of a better quality which will reflect in improved results, reduced operating times and optimized patient care.*

Tariq Azam Siddiqi  
FRCS

---