

# FIRST CHOICE FOR PRIVATE HEALTHCARE



The Bougainvillea Clinic



Laser skin treatment

Healthcare in the British Virgin Islands has come a long way since the 1980s, when there were just 10 medical doctors in the territory. Today the BVI has over 60 doctors, underlining how both private and public healthcare have expanded considerably over recent decades to meet the demands of a growing population as well as visitors to the islands. Leading this growth in the private healthcare sector is Eureka Medical Clinic, a state-of-the-art multi-specialty outpatient facility located in Road Town, Tortola. Started in 1985 by its medical director, Dr. Health Vantropool, it recently became closely affiliated with the nearby Bougainvillea Clinic, a private hospital. Through this outpatient clinic/hospital group, the community now has access to the services of a growing number of doctors (now 16) in various surgical and medical specialties. Most of these specialist doctors are UK-trained and formerly held posts at consultant level in the UK and Ireland. They provide full-time specialist services in internal medicine and associated fields of gastroenterology, cardiology, diabetes and endocrinology, obstetrics and gynecology, general and gastrointestinal surgery, orthopedic and spinal surgery, plastic (aesthetic) and reconstructive surgery, as well as dermatology. In addition, a growing number of visiting specialists, such as a urologist



Medical Director Dr. Health Vantropool

(urologic surgeon) and an ENT surgeon (otolaryngologist), are available on a monthly basis. Eureka takes pride in offering the BVI's most advanced and complete investigative facilities – ranging from simple X-rays and ultrasound examinations to computerised tomography (CT) scan and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These digital examinations done at the imaging department are then forwarded to Toronto-based radiologists for expert analysis, the reports of which can be available either immediately if necessary or routinely within 24 hours.

The clinic's cardiac services include sophisticated echocardiography, stress echo, exercise stress electrocardiogram (ECG) testing, 24-hour Holter (portable device) ECG monitoring, pacemaker insertion and monitoring. Its gastrointestinal services are cutting edge, with two doctors providing video-endoscopic examination and treatment of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract (stomach and colon). In association with Medicare Laboratory and Pharmacy, it also offers a complete range of laboratory tests and medications, all under one roof.

Eureka now also has an Urgent Care Center. It is open every day from 7am to 11pm, for minor or mid-level emergencies that occur outside of regular office hours or for patients who quickly need to see an urgent care doctor after hours. The center's imaging and laboratory technicians are on call, as are its specialist doctors. The Bougainvillea Clinic, a private hospital since 1974, has an international reputation for excellence in plastic and reconstructive surgery by Dr. Robin Tattersall. Built in the 1950s as a hotel, on the ruins of a 16th-century Dutch fort overlooking Road Harbour, the building is affectionately referred to as the 'Purple Palace' and is a prominent landmark in Road Town. In 2010, the Bougainvillea Clinic changed hands and became closely affiliated with Eureka Medical Clinic. It is now a general hospital, still with an emphasis on surgical procedures, and is therefore ideally placed to cater to the emerging trend for medical tourism. Today many local and overseas



State-of-the-art operating theatre at the Bougainvillea Clinic, Road Town

patients come to the BVI not just for plastic surgery (although this is still offered, but also for orthopedic, spinal, general, and gynecologic surgery.

Of particular renown is the work of Dr. Nagy Darwish, a UK-certified specialist in both orthopedic and spinal surgery. He performs a full range of operations on the spine, particularly lumbar and cervical disc surgery for prolapsed intervertebral discs and lumbar laminectomy for spinal stenosis. These operations, when properly indicated, bring impressive relief to persons with acute or chronic nerve root compression that cause pain in the neck or lower back and in the upper or lower limb.

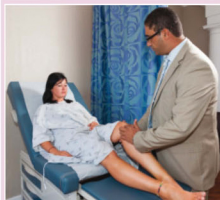
At Bougainvillea Clinic, Dr. Darwish is able to repair a full range of bone fractures, from simple to the most complex. He also offers total hip replacement and total knee replacement surgery, after which most patients are up and walking on the following day and discharged from hospital within two or three days of surgery.

The clinic also offers comprehensive physical therapy and rehabilitation services. Complementing its orthopedic and spinal services, these are provided by a fully accredited and experienced Australian trained physiotherapist. Well-known for its aesthetics and plastic surgery, the clinic also has a trained aesthetician and a dermatologist on its staff. Furthermore, it recently expanded its range of cosmetic laser procedures. Among them are an Nd:Yag laser for unwanted hair removal on all skin-types, an intense pulsed light (IPL) laser which is better suited for fairer complexion skins, and a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser for lessening wrinkles and tightening loose skin. Also available for treatment of resistant acne. And e-light are micro-dermabrasion and other cosmetic procedures, including Botox and Restylane facial filler injections.

Thanks to this comprehensive and ever-expanding range of general and specialist services at Eureka Medical Clinic and the Bougainvillea Clinic, the BVI's private healthcare sector continues to thrive. It is also perfectly geared to meet a wide variety of medical needs, be they residents or visitors to the islands.



Patient undergoing a brain scan



Knee examination by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Nagy Darwish



Patient's room at the Bougainvillea Clinic