



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

In the matter of

Complaint No. PF. 8-1921/2021-DC/PMC

Dr. Nimra Adnan Uddin Vs. Dr. Faisal Akhlaq Ali Khan

Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai	Chairman
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Expert of Plastic Surgery	

Present:

Dr. Nimra Adnan Uddin	Complainant (through zoom)
Dr. Faisal Akhlaq Ali Khan (38965-S)	Respondent
Hearing dated	26.10.2022

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Dr. Nimra Adnan Uddin (the "Complainant") filed a Complaint on 03.04.2021 against Dr. Faisal Akhlaq Khan (the "Respondent"). Brief facts of the complaint are that:
 - a) *The Complainant submitted that on 13.01.2021, Dr. Faisal performed her abdominoplasty and umbilical hernia surgery without a drain, at Elegance Plastic Surgery Clinic, Clifton Karachi under General Anesthesia. Her wound was leaking all over the place after the surgery, however Respondent Dr. Faisal did not review her post-operatively and she was discharged on 14.01.2021.*
 - b) *She visited Respondent doctor multiple times but she felt no improvement. The complainant submitted that she went to Respondent doctor for cosmetic / corrective surgery but now she is left with 2 horrible wounds and scars.*

c) She requested that strict action be taken against the Respondent doctor.

II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO RESPONDENT, DR. FAISAL AKHLAQ KHAN

2. In view of the allegations leveled in the Complaint, Show Cause Notice dated 02.06.2021 was issued to Respondent, in the following terms:

“... ”

4. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint, it has been alleged that on 13.01.2021 you performed abdominoplasty and umbilical hernia surgery of the complainant without a drain at Elegance Plastic Surgery Clinic, Clifton Karachi under General Anesthesia. Her wound was leaking all over the place after the surgery, however you did not review her post-operatively and she was discharged on 13.01.2021; and
5. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint, she had terrible time since after that and on 17.01.2021 her wound split open from the pressure point. She visited your clinic again and you tried to stitch the wound up but could not do so due to heavy discharge. She requested you to do culture of her wound but you declined and just kept her on EUSOL dressing; and
6. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint it has been alleged that then on 26.01.2021 you again confidently decided that you could close the wound, took patient to OT under GA but were unable to close the wound and instead made her buy a Vacuum assisted closure machine but that did not work either. At that time as well, you thought it is unnecessary to do MC&S again although the Complainant had suspicion that the wound is badly infected as the amount of green discharge and the smell was awful, and even after the above set of events you kept her on BD dressing of acetic acid; and
7. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint it has been alleged that on 15.01.2021, you advised her to have a skin graft taken from her left thigh to close the wound for which she still had concerns due to heavy discharge, smell and pain but you kept on reassuring that it was normal; and
8. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint it has been alleged that after the graft she had 2 wounds with the thigh wound being most painful. She remained bedridden for 4 weeks from her initial operation and had two courses of IV antibiotics. The complainant had to bear with the extra cost of medicines and dressings and nursing care; and
9. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint it has been alleged that the said graft failed within 48 hours. Later, she took review from other plastic surgeons and after getting the wound cultured it was discovered



that it was badly infected with raised inflammatory markers and that she needs another course of IV antibiotics for spiking temperature due to infection along with daily dressing change for her abdominal and thigh wound; and

10. **WHEREAS**, *in terms of the Complaint it has been alleged that although she came to you for cosmetic / corrective surgery but is now left with 2 horrible wounds and scars. Moreover, because of your negligence extra expenditure has incurred on her travel, investigations and dressing changes since 14.01.2021 till 02.04.2021 and she has an open abdominal wound measuring 13x9 cm that is no way near closure; and*

III. REPLY TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE BY RESPONDENT, DR. FAISAL AKHLAQ KHAN

3. Respondent, Dr. Faisal Akhlaq Khan submitted his reply to Show Cause Notice on 02.07.2021, wherein he stated that:

- a) *On 24.12.2020, the Complainant visited Elegance Plastic Surgery Clinic for a tummy tuck and neck liposuction for her double chin. During the first consultation, she was informed that due to her obesity and umbilical hernia, the chances of complications are 5-35% (wound dehiscence being one of the likely complications). It was also informed to the Complainant that I will operate and complete the "tummy tuck" procedure without drain.*
- b) *The Complainant returned for a second consultation (after visiting few plastic surgeons) during which the detailed pre and post-operative care was discussed. She was given a choice of being operated at the clinic or a hospital. For being cost effective, the Complainant chose the Clinic and the surgery was planned accordingly.*
- c) *The Complainant was operated under general anesthesia with a night stay at the Clinic and was subsequently seen by me and discharged on the second day. Post operatively, the Complainant was extremely non-compliant. She refused to follow post-operative instructions. Patients are supposed to walk in bending posture which was critical for post-op recovery. However, the Complainant refused to comply, which was the primary cause of her wound. Once the wound was dehisced, the Complainant refused wound management instructions also, which further aggravated the situation.*
- d) *The complainant's wound (post-surgery) developed pseudomonas that was dressed with acetic acid.*



- e) *The Complainant refused to apply VAC on the wound which is standard wound management technique recognized all over the world. The Complainant refused to take the antibiotics as prescribed, rather chose the antibiotics herself.*
- f) *The Complainant wanted a second opinion, which was arranged by me and (i) Dr. Tahir Shafi, South City Hospital, (ii) Dr. Shehab Beg, Liaquat National Hospital and (iii) Dr. Majid Hussain, Head of Plastic Surgery Ziauddin hospital visited her at the Clinic.*
- g) *Despite providing the Complainant with dressing material and antibiotics post-op, the Complainant was further returned PKR 2,50,000/- as a gesture of goodwill and on humanitarian grounds and due to financial issues and the request of the Complainant's husband.*
- b) *On the day the Complainant was flying out Pakistan, on her request, the dressing material was delivered to her house around mid-night hours so that she can dress her wounds for the time and upon reaching her destination.*
- i) *The Clinic had made efforts over and above by providing extra care and extending multiple post op visits without any professional charges. I even came at 5 am to my clinic with all my staff to see her on her request. She was ever denied any chance to see me.*
- j) *Furthermore, I am involved in lot of research work. It is well established and accepted that abdominoplasty can be done without drain. My research has been published in international paper and other papers which support my practice.*
- k) *With regards to the allegation in relation to the wound, the same was a mere wound dehiscence (which is reported in literature around 1-5%) and mostly results due to noncompliance of the patient. The Complainant suffers from obesity which further increases the chances of complications.*
- l) *Wound debridement and dressings are the main stay of treatment in such surgeries and post-operative case, which the Complainant outrightly refused. My dresser used to sit at her place for 3 hours to dress her wound but she refused to dress her wounds as she was a very non cooperative patient. When asked to do dressing two times a day she again never showed any compliance.*
- m) *Once the wound had good granulation and she had no fever or redness, and had a course of antibiotics, we decided to go for a very small skin graft on 15.02.2021. The Complainant was requested that the surgery can easily be done under local anaesthesia but she refused and opted for general anaesthesia. Again, no payment was charged from her for the procedure.*



- n) *When her graft was rejected, she had C/S of her wound. Regarding her complain about Inflammatory markers they are always raised after surgery and with an open wound. Pseudomonas is always treated with Acetic Acid. But again, she never got her wound dressed as advised.*
- o) *The complaint with regards to Vacuum assisted closure device is false and misleading. It's an established way of treatment but the Complainant refused and neglected to use the device on her own will, which led to the unfortunate worsening of the situation.*

IV. REJOINDER OF THE COMPLAINANT

4. Reply received from the Respondent doctor was forwarded to Complainant for her rejoinder.
5. The Complainant submitted her rejoinder on 13.07.2021, conveying her earlier allegations against the Respondent. She further added that due to Respondent's negligence she had to take second consultation from a plastic surgeon in UK and is still under treatment. This has resulted in her being off from work for 4 months even though she had complied with all directions of the Respondent.

V. HEARING

6. After the perusal of record submitted by the Complainant and the Respondent, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 26.10.2022. Notices dated 24.10.2022 were issued to the Complainant and Respondent Dr. Raheel Hussain directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 26.10.2022.
7. On the date of hearing, the Complainant was present through zoom (online), while the Respondent doctor was present in person.
8. The Complainant while reiterating the facts of her submitted complaint stated that the Respondent doctor was negligent in the handling of her abdominoplasty and umbilical hernia. Respondent performed surgery and did not place a drain despite several complaints. Also, the Respondent doctor failed to provide her appropriate care, post-operatively, leading to complications and kept experimenting on her wounds. The Complainant further submitted that

she went to Respondent doctor for cosmetic/corrective surgery but was now left with 2 horrible wounds and scars.

9. The Respondent doctor explained that the Complainant had come for a tummy tuck and neck liposuction for her double chin and was duly informed of the complications involved due to her obesity. The Respondent further stated that the Complainant was a non-compliant patient who had constantly chosen to 'not-follow' instructions given to her pertaining to her treatment. Respondent further stated that due to Complainant's consistent complaints regarding the surgery, he had already reimbursed the medical costs to her.

VI. EXPERT OPINION

10. A Consultant Plastic Surgeon was appointed as an Expert to assist the Disciplinary Committee in this matter. The Expert has opined, as under:

- i. *"The wound dehiscence in a tummy tuck/abdominoplasty is common and can occur with surgeons*
- ii. *Fat is not well supplied with blood and is most prone to infections.*
- iii. *Placing drains is entirely the discretion of the surgeon and many do not use them*
- iv. *It may take up to 2 months for such wounds to heal and usually by secondary infection.*
- v. *A graft may be applied to hasten healing which may not necessary 'take'.*
- vi. *All treatment given to the patient is standard and I find no negligence."*



VII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

11. The Disciplinary Committee has perused the relevant record, submissions of the parties and opinion of the Expert in the instant Complaint.
12. In view of the afore-mentioned, the Disciplinary Committee exonerates the Respondent.





Mr. Jawad Amin Khan

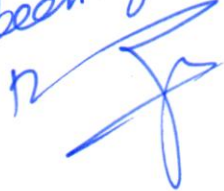
Member


Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor

Secretary


Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai

Chairman

*Page of findings
& conclusion has also
been signed*


22nd November, 2022