



## PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### May Pen Hospital Performs First Historic Surgery on Patient Stabbed in the Heart

In a historic first for May Pen Hospital (MPH), a multidisciplinary medical team successfully saved the life of a patient who arrived at the facility with a stab wound to the heart, marking a ground-breaking milestone in the hospital's growing capacity to manage complex trauma cases.

Dr. Natoya Hall-Okori, Acting Consultant in the A& E Department, said the severity of the patient's condition was determined within moments of arrival.

"So basically, a patient came in the department with a stab wound to the heart. This was identified within five minutes of presentation that the patient had what is called cardiac tamponade (when blood collects around the heart, placing pressure on it and preventing it from pumping). We were able to perform pericardiocentesis (draining excess fluid buildup from around the heart). We had a rapid ER (Emergency Room) to OR (Operating Room) coordination with anaesthesiology and general surgery. The patient had open heart surgery, repair of the cardiac injury, and later survived. Subsequently the patient went into cardiac rest, what we would say died and we resuscitated" she explained.

Dr. O'Rane Thomas, Senior Registrar in General Surgery at the MPH, said the team discovered significant damage to the heart during the procedure.

"When the patient came to the operating room, we opened the chest and we found that single stab wound to the heart. It was in the left atrium. We were able to compress that area and then apply a clamp to isolate it and repair it using sutures (stitches)," Dr. Thomas said.

Following the surgery, the patient recovered steadily. After continued monitoring and treatment, the patient was discharged and later returned for follow-up evaluations, which confirmed a full recovery.

(more)

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Dr. Hall- Okori noted that the case reflects May Pen Hospital's commitment to continuous professional development, training, and establishing protocols for severe trauma cases.

“We have the team. You know, they said, write the vision; the Southern Regional Health Authority sent us out to the University Hospital of the West Indies and we were trained and we came back home, and we're bringing back what we learned. And we are very hopeful that in the end, MPH will be one of the best hospitals here in the Southern Regional Health Authority and Jamaica, the Caribbean. We're very hopeful and expect more of this to come” Dr. Hall said.

The case was examined during a “Coordinated Care in Penetrative Cardiac Trauma seminar held at the hospital on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

The presentation highlighted the rapid response and collaboration among the departments of accident & emergency, surgery, anaesthesiology, nursing and laboratory, which ultimately led to the patient's survival.

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Picture 1



Members of the multidisciplinary medical team at May Pen Hospital who successfully performed the facility's first life-saving surgery on a patient with a stab wound to the heart. Left to right- Dr. Jevonne McIntosh, Medical Officer in the Anesthesiology Department; Dr. Amoy Ellis, Medical Officer in the A&E Department, Dr. Natoya Hall-Okori, Acting Consultant in the A & E Department; Dr. Andrea Johnson, A & E Consultant and Dr. O'Rane Thomas, Senior Registrar in General Surgery.

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Picture 2



Doctors, nurses and medical students listen during the “Coordinated Care in Penetrative Cardiac Trauma” seminar at May Pen Hospital where the historic cardiac trauma case was presented.

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