



## Tourist's Life Saved by pacemaker Implantation in Saint Lucia

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Contact: Dr. Romel Daniel, Tapion Hospital - 459 2297 or 459 2000

British tourist, Mrs. Susan Sayer, recently had her life saved by the emergency implantation of a temporary cardiac pacemaker, followed by a dual chamber permanent pacemaker at the Tapion Hospital in Castries, Saint Lucia.

Dr. Romel Daniel, FRCP (UK), FESC, who coincidentally did his post graduate cardiology training in the UK, was pleased to lead the team that recognized Mrs. Sayer's recurrent "epileptic seizures" were actually her heart rate repeatedly dropping to a very low 24 beats per minute.

Mrs. Sayer was found collapsed by her husband, in their Landings Resort room, during their holiday to Saint Lucia in February 2010. She was referred to Tapion Hospital, where the temporary heart pacemaker was inserted on the evening of her admission to hospital. Twenty four hours later the Medtronic cardiac pacemaker was successfully implanted by the Tapion team.

Mrs. Sayer was able to leave hospital, to continue her holiday symptom free for another week, before returning home to the UK. Tourism is the major income generator in Saint Lucia and travelers are reassured when they recognize that their health problems will be expertly dealt with on the island. This is a welcome piece of good news for Saint Lucia. Knowing that such procedures and expertise are available on the island only adds to the attraction of the destination and helps to reassure visitors that there is at least one medical facility in Saint Lucia with the capability of dealing with their unforeseen health issues.