100-year-old woman becomes oldest woman to have breast surgery at Tameside Hospital

A WOMAN from Tameside is believed to have become the oldest in the UK to undergo breast surgery – having gone under the knife in her hundredth year.

Dorothy Affleck, 100, was diagnosed with breast cancer last summer and underwent surgery at Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in August 2010. One year on, Dorothy is hoping to be given confirmation that the cancer has not returned when she meets up with the Tameside Hospital surgeon who carried out the operation, Pardeep Arora, on Wednesday (August 31).

Mr Arora, a highly experienced surgeon, says Dorothy is the oldest patient he has ever treated for breast cancer.

Because of her age, Dorothy had to undergo the two-hour operation under local anaesthetic instead of the more commonly used general anaesthetic.

Mrs Affleck, from Hyde, said: “When I was told ‘you’ve got cancer’, I couldn’t believe it. I was horrified. But Mr Arora was absolutely marvellous. After the operation he visited me every day. I used to give him a big hug.

“I think it is unique because I came through it at that age. I was 99-and-a-half and people didn’t think they should operate at that age. But Mr Arora did. And he and the whole hospital looked after me. If I’d gone private, and paid a thousand pounds a week, I couldn’t have had better treatment.

“The hospital’s spotlessly clean, the food was good, the attention was good, and they made sure I had my wash every morning because I couldn’t help myself.”
“The nurses and the doctors work very hard. They made everything easy for me. I’d give 100 per cent for Tameside and they deserve it. Everything was perfect. “

Mr Arora said: “Mrs Affleck is a wonderful and inspiring woman and I am personally very pleased that we achieved the best possible outcome.

“Here at Tameside Hospital we have a very patient-focussed approach. Every patient is treated with utmost dignity and respect. Their views and values are considered at all stages of treatment.

“Sometimes age can have a bearing on the suitability of surgery as the primary treatment but we look at the physical ability of each patient rather than absolute age when discussing treatment options. Like any other centre of excellence we are always pushing the boundaries to provide the best for our patients.

“It is important to point out that the decision to operate on Mrs Affleck was not taken lightly. We have a robust and highly qualified team of experts which examine all the treatment options for every patient. Every suspected case of anything serious is thoroughly discussed. We also liaise with a regional unit for potentially difficult case scenarios.”

Tameside Hospital offers full breast care treatment options including on-site breast reconstruction following mastectomy. Radiotherapy is carried out at Christie’s and at Oldham.

ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ON 0161 922 4080