

August 27 2014 | Last updated 4 minutes ago

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## UAE | Health

# Man gets his hand back with help of Dubai's Welcare Hospital

Rare reconstructive surgery gives Nigerian social worker hope

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Published: 00:00 March 8, 2012

**XPRESS**



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Dr Mohan Rangaswamy with Inalegwu Ajonye at Welcare Hospital

Dubai: Doctors at the private Welcare Hospital in Dubai reconstructed the hand of a poor Nigerian social worker in a free, 13-hour operation on Tuesday.

"My joy knows no bounds," said the patient Inalegwu Ajonye, 34, from Nigeria. He said his right hand - besides parts of his face and shoulder - had been disfigured in a car crash in his home country. With no recourse to proper treatment, his condition deteriorated and his hand was rendered dysfunctional.

Knocking on several doors for help, Ajonye happened to get in touch with doctors at Welcare Hospital to find out if there was any way out for him.

"He first came to us in 2009. His wrist was dislocated and he had lost a lot of tissue. His fingers were frozen and his joints were fused. He would hide his hand as it looked 'ugly'," said Dr Mohan Rangaswamy, Specialist Plastic Surgeon at Welcare Hospital, who performed the surgery with Dr Subbaiah Surendran, Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Together, they arrived at a plan - a rare reconstructive surgery, involving deformity correction, joint fusion, joint replacement and abdominal flap transplant. It was estimated to cost over Dh140,000, a sum that Ajonye could ill-afford. But after evaluating his case, the hospital decided to waive the cost, barring a nominal amount that he managed to raise.

"I can't thank the hospital and the doctors enough. They made the impossible possible," said Ajonye.