

**SKY NEWS**



On Sky News TV

## India's Health Break Boom

Updated: 12:11, Monday May 08, 2006

UK residents in need of operations are flying to India to get them done cheaply, Sky News has revealed.

As well as cutting out waiting times, or getting treatment for a fraction of the price it would be at home, patients are able to spend time relaxing and recuperating in the sun.

An Indian medical team at work on one of many British patients

Hospitals on the subcontinent have already offered the NHS use of their facilities and expertise to treat patients from the UK.

But health chiefs decided the 10-hour wait was too long for patients to put up with.

However, many people who cannot afford an operation or don't want to wait disagree - and are flying out to get treatment themselves.

Many surgeons who give treatment in India are eminent in their field and are often British-trained.

One patient told Sky News she had travelled out to Mumbai for a hip operation.

To get it done in the UK would have cost around £20,000, but she ended up spending £4,000 - which included a 10-day stay in the sunshine.

"I had reached the point where I couldn't wait any longer for this operation," she told Sky News Correspondent Alex Crawford.

Another patient went out for a tummy tuck that would have cost her £8,000 in the UK.

It cost her £1,300 - which included a week's holiday. **Both patients had contacted the British based The Taj Medical Group who arranged everything - the operations, flights, visas, accommodation and aftercare.**

The Indian Government is now encouraging the country's medical sector to tout for business in Britain.

It is hoped the sector can repeat the boom enjoyed by India's IT industry.

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