

beneficence together with some degree of autonomy to the parents. We should try to follow a commonsense approach and not dump decisions on parents alone. We must take joint decisions after due deliberation with a group of consultants but the final option should be left to the parents. We should keep in mind that medical uncertainty regarding correct diagnosis and prognosis in foetal medicine is frequent. We should always put ourselves in the situation of parents and ask: 'Would I want the child to live if it were mine?' It is unfortunate that in a developing country, economic and social realities may outweigh ethical considerations.

There are many issues that we have not even touched. We have not covered genetic screening and genetic engineering, assisted fertilization or test tube babies, surrogate mothers and babies of HIV-infected mothers. I would like to end by thanking all the panelists and participants for their contribution towards making this discussion so interesting and informative.

#### REFERENCE

1 King M. Human entrapment in India. *Natl Med J India* 1991;4:196-201.

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## Obituary

### Lieutenant General Bidyapati Bhattacharjya (PVSM)

(12 July 1909–23 December 1993)



Lieutenant General Bidyapati Bhattacharjya, PVSM, was born on 12 July 1909 at Bishnupur, Bengal and passed the MB,BS in 1935. He studied at the Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna where he stood first in the University. He then went to the United Kingdom where he passed successively the examinations for Diploma in Psychological Medicine (DPM) and for the membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (Neurology) in 1936 and London

in 1937. On his return to India in 1937 he joined the Indian Medical Service (later renamed the Army Medical Corps) where he served in consultative capacities both in internal medicine and psychiatry, as Associate Professor of Medicine in the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and in many senior administrative posts including Director of Medical Services (Army). He retired in 1969 as the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services. He was Colonel Commandant of the Corps (1968–71).

In 1954 General Bidyapati was mentioned in the despatches, in 1960 he was selected for the first course of the National Defence College, New Delhi and was awarded the Param Vishist Seva Medal in 1969 for his distinguished services.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh in 1965 and of London in 1966. He became a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1967. He was Secretary for India, the Royal Medico-Psychological Society (United

Kingdom) and was President of the Indian Psychiatric Society.

General Bidyapati actively participated in sport, dramatics, religious functions and wrote under the pen name of 'Ban Bhatta'. He was awarded the 'Ananda' award by the All India Bengali Literary Society for his translation of Ghalib's verses. His other literary works were translations of Kalidasa's *Kumarsambhava* and *Raghuvamsa*, and a philosophical treatise on the teachings of the *Bhagvada Gita*. Besides publishing numerous medical articles, he wrote two books entitled *Mountain Sickness* and *Army Medicine*.

He continued to provide humanitarian services after retirement by offering free medical consultations, and was involved in various other social activities—he was Chairman of the Cheshire Home in Ranchi till 1977. He was also Chairman of several educational institutions.

He died on 23 December 1993 and is survived by his wife, a son, three daughters, grandchildren and a great grandson.

SURGEON REAR ADMIRAL G. D. SASIKUMAR  
Command Medical Officer  
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#### Personal reminiscences

B. Bhattacharjya was honest, simple, humble to the core, kindhearted, a strict disciplinarian, stickler for punctuality and a great lover of animals. He was a great family man and even till the last day he looked after and cared for his ailing wife. He left behind his wife, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and a great-grandson. His friends and admirers are numerous and they remember him with reverence.

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