

## PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	<b>Egyptian Gazette</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>01-May-2016</b>
<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>Egypt</b>
<b>CIRCULATION:</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>TITLE :</b>	<b>Good news for heart patients</b>
<b>PAGE:</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>ARTICLE TYPE:</b>	<b>NGO News</b>
<b>REPORTER:</b>	<b>Staff Report</b>

## PRESS CLIPPING SHEET



DR Khaled Atef ( 1<sup>st</sup> R), Dr Mohamed Sobhi, ( 2<sup>nd</sup> C), Dr Adel al-Atribi, then Dr Sameh Shahin (4<sup>th</sup> L) attending a press conference to announce a new drug to cure cardiac diseases.

# Good news for heart patients

**THERE** are glad tidings for cardiac patients. The Ministry of Health has approved a new drug to cure unstable angina, which prevents platelets from sticking together to form harmful clots. The drug, "Ticagrelor," has a rapid effect not exceeding 30 minutes.

A year's trial that covered 18,624 people, showed that the mortality rate decreased by 22 per cent in patients who received Ticagrelor. Heart attacks also declined by 18 per cent.

The study also showed that in people taking the drug there was a 33 per cent decrease in stents used to widen arteries.

According to Dr Mohamed Sobhi, Professor of Cardiology at Alexandria University, the new drug works to stop platelets from forming blood clots. Its rapid effect deals with a blood clot within the first 90 minutes of the start of its formation. The study showed the superiority of the new drug over older ones. In addition, it does not cause bleeding.

Dr Sameh Shahin, Professor of Cardiology at Ain Shams University, said during a press conference held

in Cairo recently that cardiac diseases in general were, according to World Health Organisation figures, the main cause of death among Egyptians.

The risk factors associated with cardiac disease were high levels of cholesterol in the blood, hypertension, diabetes, smoking and obesity resulting from an unhealthy diet and avoiding exercise.

A common symptom that tells of the formation of a blood clot is a chest pain that lasts for 15 minutes, said Dr Shahin, stressing the importance of dealing with all such pains seriously even if they are slight.

The clot, he said, may not lead to death, but it damages the heart muscle. Dealing with clots early prevents death. He urged the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Egyptian Cardiology Society to improve ambulance services and organise training courses for medics in the use of the electrocardiogram so that they can make rapid decisions.

Dr Khaled Atef, representative of the firm producing the new drug said that it would be available in the local market for LE345.