

Breathing is easier for Keith after trip across world

A BUSINESSMAN travelled 6,000 miles to have a new treatment for a debilitating lung condition at a Leeds hospital.

Keith Young flew from his home in Durban, South Africa, to have the procedure for emphysema at Spire Leeds Hospital.

The private facility in Roundhay is one of just a handful in this country offering the treatment which can improve lung function and reduce breathlessness.

Keith Young, 68, was first diagnosed with the condition 32 years ago and struggled to get his breath to the point where walking

a short distance was difficult and climbing a flight of stairs was impossible.

Until recently, invasive surgery has been the only option for patients but the recently-developed endoscopic lung volume reduction procedure involves using only a small flexible camera, passed into the lungs via the nose or mouth.

Kostas Papagiannopoulos, consultant thoracic surgeon at Spire Leeds Hospital, said:



This is a minimally invasive treatment for emphysema. "It's helping the patients to breathe better, walk further and stay better conditioned. The procedure blocks the 'bad' parts of the lung from breathing, allowing more space to the 'best' parts to breathe, which is the case with Mr Young."

Mr Young, who is married with six grown-up children, said: "I am now using the bottom part of my

lungs which I was not before.

"I'm able to breathe properly and more deeply.

"I'm now able to climb a flight of stairs and carry on walking without getting short of breath. That's a huge difference for me.

"Although it's early days, my quality of life has already improved and I'm excited about the future. I'm especially looking forward to spending more time with my family."

Mr Papagiannopoulos added: "The procedure provides another option for the treatment of some cases of a very pervasive disease."

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Mr Kostas Papagiannopoulos, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
Patient case study