

Amal, 38 years old from Gaza city, was found to have a brain aneurysm (a potentially life-threatening ballooning of a blood

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Amal

vessel) in March 2022.

On 5 June 2022, Amal was referred to An-Najah University Hospital in Nablus, in the West Bank, for brain catheterization and scan (angiography), a procedure not available in the Gaza Strip. She made one permit application for an appointment on 16 June that was delayed. Amal was approved a permit to travel on 3 August but following closure of Erez (Beit Hanoun) checkpoint by Israeli authorities on 2 August she was unable to exit the Gaza Strip to receive care.

Talking about the outcome of her first application, Amal said, “I don’t know why I am prevented, I have been waiting so long! I need to have this test so the doctor can make a clear diagnosis and give me proper treatment. I suffer and worry every day.

”Amal received a further hospital appointment at An-Najah University Hospital for 1 September. She was eagerly awaiting a text message from the Palestinian Health Liaison Office, hoping for a positive response, when WHO spoke with her the day before her appointment. She received the text at 5pm that day and called to ask, “I’ve just received a text message from the Liaison Office. It says under study. What does it mean?” After her initial disappointment, she received another message later that evening saying that she had been approved and could travel the next day.

Amal finally travelled and received the scan she needed. Doctors advised the best course of action would be to manage her condition with medicines, which she now takes daily. “I finally had the tests and I feel so grateful that I won’t need brain surgery after all. The doctors at An-Najah reassured me and prescribed me some medicines. They recommended that I will need follow up to keep an eye on things,” Amal said.

Table 1: Amal’s hospital appointments, intended destination, and permit outcomes

Appointment date	Hospital destination	Permit outcome
2022 16	An-Najah University Hospital	Delayed
st 2022 3	An-Najah University Hospital	Approved (closure prevented travel)
September 2022 1	An-Najah University Hospital	Approved (initially notified her application was under study)