



TEAM VISIT

Rumah Sakit St Damian

Cancar, Manggarai, Flores

24 May – 1 June 2013

Team Leader's Report

Dr. Robert Coren

Plastic Surgeon

Implementation of Dr John Hargrave's mission in East Timor and Eastern Indonesia: providing a specialist surgical service to the disadvantaged where the service is not available or affordable.

AIMS AND GOALS

1. The ongoing provision of a plastic and reconstructive / cleft lip and palate surgical service to the people of Flores and the surrounding islands of Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Indonesia.
2. To continue to work with our longstanding local counterpart medical, nursing and physiotherapy staff at Rumah Sakit St Damian and St Rafael, Cancar and assist them in developing their skills for the delivery of services to those patients with physical disability and deformity.
3. To support capacity building by providing skills transfer more widely in Indonesia by incorporating local specialist counterparts in the visiting team.
4. To continue to develop links with other charitable support services in Indonesia whose missions overlap and compliment that of OSSAA.

OVERVIEW

At Adelaide airport, we were grateful to Virgin Airlines who waived the cost of our excess baggage. Thanks must go to Dr Darren Molony and his contacts at Virgin Airlines who arranged this.

The journey to Cancar was uneventful, including the road trip from Labuanbajo to Cancar. On arrival at Cancar we were warmly welcomed. There are always ongoing projects at St Damian, and on this trip we were privileged to use the newly renovated physiotherapy unit. It was functional and very impressive.



Consultations started shortly after arriving and continued the following day. The majority of cases were cleft lip and palate patients. A number of patients had returned for repair of their cleft palate following the repair of their lip the previous year. There were relatively few burn contracture patients seen on this visit.

Rob, Matt and Amanda at the physiotherapy unit

Ibu Nunuk from the Lions Club of Jakarta was able to join us for several days. The financial support the Lions Club provides for cleft lip and palate patients is greatly appreciated.

The first three days operating were quite arduous as there was only one team this trip and many cases to perform. Surgery finished quite late on these days, which placed pressure on the team and other staff. Despite this, the local nurses and staff were very generous and accommodating with this inconvenience.

Shortly after starting surgery on the Monday morning, Dr Agus, a consultant Plastic Surgeon from Surabaya arrived. He informed us that the Indonesian government had recently decided that an Indonesian consultant of that team's particular specialty must accompany all visiting teams to Indonesia. Dr Agus performed some of the surgical procedures during our trip, but as we only had one Anaesthetist, we could only use one theatre.

This visit was the first visit for Dr Kathryn Materne. Kathryn performed many roles including surgical assistant, anaesthetic assistant, tutoring local general practitioners and consulting for ward patients with the GPs. She also liaised with the hospital pharmacy and laboratory. Together with Anastasia and Amanda, she liaised with staff regarding any changes to the day's proceedings or with postoperative orders while surgery was proceeding.

During the week, three local general practitioners (Dr Christian, Dr Julius, Dr Lilli) spent time with the team – assisting in surgery and being tutored by Dr Grill and Dr Materne.

Overall, the running of the theatre was very good. The staff performed well under the leadership of Ibu Sabina and they were always cheerful and helpful. There were some issues, which needed to be addressed. They including problems with suction during induction of anaesthesia and at extubation and there is still reluctance by local staff to give regular post-operative pain relief when required. Further education regarding these issues was given.

The processing of instruments was rapid and patient movement pre- and post-operatively was well organized. There were no issues with fasting times.

All team members performed admirably and all felt very supported. Having only one surgical team does increase the demands on the team and local staff. It is always difficult to postpone patients until the next visit, but it is important to be mindful of finishing times for the sake of the team and local staff.

There were no adverse events on this visit. One child did have a post-operative fever. With regular fluids, analgesia, and antibiotics she was making good progress by the time the team left and we were advised that she recovered fully.

A wonderful farewell dinner was shared with the SSpS sisters and local staff on the Friday night. Despite the week's hardships, this night reiterated the enjoyment and the privilege it is to visit St Damian.

The flight from Labuanbajo on the Saturday was earlier than usual. This meant the team had to rise at 3am. Traveling in the dark on the winding roads combined with tiredness, caused three members of the team to be ill!

Thanks must also go to the Barossa Valley Lions Club who provided knitted beanies and toys for all the patients. Amanda and Matthew were instrumental in facilitating this very generous contribution.

We all look forward to returning to Cancar.

OSSAA TEAM

Dr Robert Coren – Plastic Surgeon/Team Leader
Dr Matthew Grill – Anaesthetist
Dr Kathryn Materne – General Practitioner/Surgical Assistant
Amanda McFall – Recovery Nurse
Anastasia Stain – Interpreter

St Damian / St Rafael Hospital

Sr Tres Gudepun – Head of St Damian Hospital
Sr Natalia Maria Naki – Head of St Rafael Hospital
Dr Agus – Plastic Surgeon from Surabaya
Ferdj Jaleng – Registration nurse
Sabina – Theatre Nurse
Erna – Theatre Nurse
Ferdj Jelalu – Physiotherapist/Assistant Nurse
Donni – Assistant Nurse
Ponti – Orderly
Sr Hedwina – Cook
Mary, Veronika, & Mus – Housekeeping
Tanti – Patient Registration Assistant



The team

CONSULTATIONS / OPERATIONS

Total patient consultations: 88
Total wait list/review: 19
Total Surgery: 52
 GA/Sedation:44
 Local: 8
Cleft lip repairs: 26
Cleft palate repairs: 10
Burn: 1
Lumps & Bumps: 12
Others: 3



Matt and Kathryn in action



Local doctor, Dr Julius & Plastic Surgeon, Dr Agus

Report from Interpreter/Coordinator Anastasia Stain

Summary of activities

- Leaving Adelaide for Denpasar Bali on Friday 24th May 2013.
- Leaving Denpasar for Labuan Bajo and Cancar on Saturday 25th May 2013.
- Patients Consultation on Saturday the 24th and 25th May then set up theatre and preparing operation schedule for the week-27th to 31st May 2013.
- Farewell Night with the nuns and hospital staff at St Damian to conclude the trip. Leaving Cancar for Labuan Bajo and Denpasar Bali on Saturday 1st June 2013.

Our “abridged” Plastics team left Adelaide on the 24th of May. Our team comprised two husband and wife teams - Dr. Rob Coren as the Team Leader accompanied by his wife, Dr Kathryn Materne. The anaesthetic /recovery team was led by Dr Matthew Grill and Amanda McFall. In past visits we usually had two operating surgeons and two anaesthetists, as well as Margaret Maloney who coordinated the whole visit. Even with this smaller team the time was used to great effect with some 52 procedures being carried out. This often meant burning the candle at both ends with some early starts and late finishes—all in a very good cause.

As always the ancillary staff, nursing staff and of course the sisters all played their parts in keeping the exercise moving forward.

We are beginning to see the involvement of some local surgeons and doctors who are able to learn skills and new techniques from their Australian counterparts. A number of them commented to me privately how skilled and dedicated the team was. In fact I think they were left a little bit in awe of proceedings.

There had been staff changes in St Damian with two of the long serving nuns, with Sr Virgulla and Sr Reggie leaving service in Indonesia to return to their respective countries. The staff who now oversee the OSSAA program seemed to have learnt well from the well established protocols and as such the transition was very smooth.



A young challenge

One thing that has been mentioned to me by the hospital hierarchy, in particular Sr Therysia Gudepun, is the need on their part to perhaps obtain a schedule of proposed team visit dates that can be more or less locked in for the coming year. This is actually quite important for them as they also have visiting local doctors and clinics at various times. These clinics utilise the services of the nursing staff which also help the OSSAA teams. The nuns are concerned with too tight a schedule putting too much of a strain on these resources. A schedule at the beginning of the year would also allow St Damian/ St Rafael to contact various universities/hospitals to garner interest and support from local doctors, surgeons and students who might like to be involved in visiting the OSSAA programs. This last point is fairly important because recently a lot of emphasis has been put on the 'teaching and transfer of knowledge' aspect. So, as you can see there are practical considerations for trying to present a fixed, well in advanced schedule.

Since my last visit to Cancar, the consultation room has been renovated so that it can now accommodate quite a few patients in comfort; far better than the old cramped room . I am sure all the other OSSAA teams will enjoy the easier working conditions.



Sister Natalia Naki, Kathryn, Rob and Sister Tres Gudepun



Ibu Nunuk and Rob Coren



A long overdue operation



Gotta love



Matt checking a young patient



Anastasia, Ibu Nunuk and Matt with patient



Kathryn, Ferdi and a repaired lump



Still thinking about it



All fixed



Kathryn and happy result



Anastasia and Amanda discussing dinner with head cook, Sr Hedwina