



OSSAA

OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

TEAM VISIT

RUMAH SAKIT KATOLIK MARIANUM, HALILULIK

24 – 31 MAY 2014

Team Leaders report

Dr Mark Moore , AM, MB,ChB, FRACS

Plastic and Craniofacial Surgeon

TEAM OSSAA:

Dr.Mark Moore –Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon/Team Leader
Dr.Andrew Wallace – Anaesthetist
Margaret Maloney – Theatre/Recovery Nurse
Anastasia Stain- Interpreter

Team Rumah Sakit Katolik Marianum:

Sr.Angela Salome SSpS – Director of Rumah Sakit Katolik Marianum (RSKM)
Sr.Hildegunde SSpS – Ward Nurse
Sr. Diana SSpS – Administration Staff
Dr.Soeroso – General Surgery Responsible Person in RSKM
Dr.Fabianus Lau – General Practitioner in RSKM
Dr.Victor Kurniawan – Resident Medical Officer RSKM
Dr. Rezka Arthur Putra – Resident Medical Officer RSKM
Ms.Yasinta Belak – Patient Registration Staff
Sr.Mayela SSpS- Cook
Ms.Odete Charvalo (Moi) – Nurse & House keeping
Ms.Vira Paraeira – Nurse
Mr.Yohanes Kristomos Bere (Itho) – Theatre & Patients Operational staff
Mr.Yoram D Talan (Adis) – Scrub Nurse
Mr.Rikardus Asamae (Rikad) – Anaesthetist Assistant Nurse
Ms.Mathilda Kase (Ida) – Recovery Nurse
Ms.Natalia Kleden (Nata) – Scrub Nurse
Ms.Lusiana Luan (Ana) – Theatre Nurse

ITINERARY

Friday 23 May	Depart Adelaide for Denpasar. Overnight in Denpasar
Saturday 24 May	Depart Denpasar for Kupang. Transfer by road to Halilulik
Sunday 25 May	Patient consultations, RSKM Meeting with Bupati of Belu, Atambua
Monday 26 May	Operating theatre and ward round, RSKM
Tuesday 27 May	Operating theatre and ward round, RSKM
Wednesday 28 May	Operating theatre and ward round, RSKM
Thursday 29 May	Operating theatre and ward round, RSKM
Friday 30 May	Final ward round Meet with Bupati and other Health authorities, RSUD Gabriel Manek Atambua
Saturday 31 May	Depart Halilulik for Kupang
Sunday 1 June	Delayed in Kupang
Monday 2 June	Depart Kupang for Denpasar
Tuesday 3 June	Depart Denpasar for Adelaide

OVERVIEW

RUMAH SAKIT KATOLIK MARIANUM, HALILULIK

24 – 31 June, 2014

**Plastic Surgeon / Team Leader
Dr Mark Moore**

This OSSAA Plastic Surgery team visit to RSKM, Halilulik experienced many of the challenges of providing a volunteer surgical mission to this remote part of Indonesia – the highs and lows, the rewards and the frustrations – a week that starts with such great promise after meeting regional government authorities to plan a long-term programme of teaching and clinical service , ends with the effect a volcanic eruption visits on the region, with endless travel delays and changes of plan !! Given the many trials and tribulations in actually getting this visit to the start line, this roller-coaster of emotions should not seem too out of the ordinary.

Since the last OSSAA visit to Halilulik in November 2013 much has happened in terms of access for foreign doctors and medical teams to provide a clinical and teaching service in Indonesia. As of the start of 2014 new regulations in Indonesia saw a significant expansion in the administrative / bureaucratic requirements to permit doctors to work in the country, even as unpaid volunteers on short-term missions. Outstanding and persistent advocacy on OSSAA's behalf by our counterpart Ibu Nunuk in Jakarta enabled us to fulfil all the requirements, and thus proceed with this visit – even if uncertainty persisted up till the week before departure. Ibu Nunuk in tandem with Sr Angela in

Halilulik and Anastasia Stain our interpreter / coordinator worked closely and tirelessly to ensure every possibility had been covered.

With that background the team departed Adelaide on 23 June bound for Denpasar. No problems were experienced inbound relating to our equipment or supplies , allowing for rapid transfer to the Vira Bali Hotel for our overnight stay. The following morning , we flew to Kupang on a Garuda Indonesia flight where we were met once again by two SSpS sisters, as well as by Mr Donovan Whitford, an Australian, long time resident of Kupang and operator of 'Dive Kupang Dive'. After lunch in Kupang , the team set off on the long drive through to Halilulik, broken again only by dinner in Kefamenanu. Arriving about 9.20 pm we were welcomed by Sr Angela, the RSKM staff and the two new resident doctors Dr Victor and Dr Rezka . The usual accommodation was prepared with the resident doctors across the road from the hospital complex.

Sunday was occupied with patient consultations in the morning, followed by operating theatre setup in the afternoon. Some 24 cases were seen on this first day, with a further 8 patients presenting over the following days. Among those presenting were a new cleft child who had chosen to travel across from Cancar, Flores for treatment given our inability to operate there under the present guidelines. A second 11 year old child with severe burn contractures, whom we operated on at Cancar in November 2013 had returned home to Soe, West Timor, was aware of our teams visit and re-presented for the next surgical stage.

Throughout the clinic the two local doctors were present , once again providing an opportunity for teaching. By weeks end a total of 32 patients were assessed, and from this 25 were selected for surgery during the four days we were able to operate.

Cleft lip and palate remained the predominant diagnosis, with 15 patients being surgically treated. Most were new cases, although one bilateral cleft patient, previously treated by a visiting Indonesian team to Kefamenanu had a major dehiscence of the repair requiring complete revision. Two cases had cleft palate repairs after prior lip repairs performed elsewhere – one of these will return on a subsequent visit for cleft lip revision. Identical twin boys with identical unilateral incomplete cleft lips were among the other cases to present.

Burn contractures remain the second most prevalent diagnosis – the case detailed above being the most severe, on this visit having surgery to release his neck and right axillary contractures, and excision of earlobe keloid. A 22 year old female whose neck contracture was released and skin grafted on our previous RSKM visit returned pleased with her result, and on this occasion underwent release of right hand and left wrist contractures. The limit to how much burn contracture surgery can be performed in Halilulik remain access to an appropriately trained physiotherapist with skills in splinting, and the ability to follow these patients closely during the first few months after surgery. This should be a focus for further development, to develop a rehabilitation facility if RSKM, or the nearby Atambua hospital are to adequately manage these burn cases.

The newer Penlon anaesthetic machine at RSKM continues to cause concern. After issues last year, the defective part was apparently identified and Dr Wallace had brought with him a replacement part for the machine from Adelaide. He spent several hours on Sunday making changes to and testing the machine. Whilst all seemed well, when the first case started on Monday it was quickly apparent that inadequate anaesthetic gas levels were being transmitted to the patient to maintain them asleep. Thus we converted to the simpler, older Soft Lander – halothane

vaporiser and had an otherwise uneventful week from an anaesthetic viewpoint.

The operating theatre and recovery staff capably directed by Marg Maloney ensured quick turnover of patients. Pak Adis delegated a more junior colleague Ibu Natalie to scrub for most of the cleft cases and she quickly learned the routines, whilst he continued to assist with the burn cases. Recovery of patients was largely overseen by Sr Marg, assisted by a local nurse – patients were quickly returned to their mother for feeding as soon as they were awake and their airway safe.

The preoperative assessment clinic, operating theatre and ward rounds all provided an excellent opportunity for teaching of the local medical and nursing staff. The two junior doctors were also joined by a more senior colleague Dr Fabianus for much of the week.

Post operative ward rounds occurred twice daily in the company of Sr Angela, the local doctors and nursing staff. No significant issues were noted prior to the teams departure, and guidelines for discharge and aftercare were discussed with both Drs Victor and Rezka.

During the week several meetings were had between the team and local government authorities. Firstly on Sunday evening the team was invited to an official welcome by the Bupati of Belu (Atambua). At the meeting expressions of support for our work were voiced by the Bupati, a visiting official from the Intelligence authorities in Jakarta and the local health authorities. After the formalities , the team and the sisters were hosted to a dinner and after dinner singing and dancing. From this meeting we were requested to visit the R.S.U.D Gabriel Manek , the public hospital in Atambua on Friday to further discuss future clinical and teaching opportunities between OSSAA and the health facilities in Belu.

This meeting chaired by Dr Valens Pareira from Belu and also latterly attended by the Bupati discussed the development of further relationships – detailing upcoming changes in health delivery more widely in Indonesia ,relating to rule changes within ASEAN nations, whilst also intimating that new connections were evolving between Dili (Timor Leste), Kupang (NTT) and Darwin (Northern Territory). He requested an ongoing commitment for teaching, skill transfer and clinical service particularly in General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and also ENT surgery and Orthopedic Surgery. As an outcome of the meeting they would look to construct a draft MOU which would be forwarded to the sisters and Anastasia Stain for consideration by OSSAA. The meeting promised an ongoing fruitful relationship, less hindered by the recent administrative and bureaucratic issues for our visiting teams.

After the meeting the team spent a short time travelling to the border region with Timor Leste in the company of the sisters, before returning to Halilulik. A farewell dinner, and socializing with the sisters and staff finished another successful week on a high note. At this farewell the opportunity was had to acknowledge the very significant contribution of Ibu Nunuk in facilitating this visit – she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of OSSAA in recognition of her dedication to our teams success over the last five or more years.

Return travel proved to be the major headache for the team. After the difficult road trip on the way to Halilulik we arranged the return travel to Atambua on Susi Air – this plane had engine troubles meaning a hastily arranged road trip. This saw us arrive in Atambua later than anticipated . A volcanic eruption off the island of Sumbawa earlier on Friday had however closed Kupang airport because of the resultant ash cloud. The team was thus committed to staying in Kupang until the airport reopened. After a day of frustration

waiting around the airport on Sunday as no planes departed, the team spent a second night at the T-MORE Hotel located close to the airport. Finally early on Monday morning the first planes flew in and out of Kupang airport allowing us to reinstate our original Garuda flight to Bali. Checking in just after midday for a 3pm departure, the team was further delayed , finally leaving Kupang after 7pm. Arriving in Bali there was a final further delay of 6 hours in the Virgin flight to Adelaide resulting in an exhausted team arriving home two and a half days late.

Specific issues deserving of further comments ;

1. Air travel :

Travel on the leg between Kupang and Halilulik remains challenging and contentious. The new airport in Atambua appears almost complete, but at this time Susi Air, with a small 12 seat Cessna Caravan is the only regular flight. Where teams have even a moderate amount of luggage, this would need to be sent by road. If as seems likely the Garuda subsidiary Citilink starts to fly this route, this would be a more acceptable proposition. Similarly the ease with which the sisters seem to be able cross the border to Timor Leste, transiting via Dili remains a possibility.

2. Hospital facilities :

As noted above the anaesthetic machine remains the major unsolved issue. Resolution of this is important if larger surgical procedures are to be consistently performed in this facility.

The RSUD Gabriel Manek in Atambua is expected to be completed this year, and if the proposed

agreement comes to fruition will be an excellent resource for teaching and clinical service.

3. Administration / registration issues :

After several discussions with Ibu Nunuk, it was apparent the amount of effort that had been enlisted to achieve this visit, and that there should be no difficulties having the General Surgery team visit later in the year, and then more regular visits next year. If the agreement can be established with Belu more widely then a regular more wide ranging service may be possible.

4. Local charitable support :

Ibu Nunuk in Jakarta and Sr Angela in Halilulik have been working tirelessly to ensure the short and long term survival of this service to NTT. We will continue to rely very much on their access to the political and bureaucratic pathways and respond quickly and efficiently to their requests to ensure our position and status in the region continues to be acknowledged and supported.

5. Summary :

This plastic and reconstructive surgical team visit proved once again highly successful . 32 patients were assessed, 25 operated upon and 11 were waitlisted for surgery on a future visit – most of these latter cases were cleft lip and palate patients who have had their lip repaired on this visit, and will require cleft palate repairs on a follow-up visit. It is planned to provide such follow-up care on our next trip either later in 2014 or early in 2015.

CLINICAL SUMMARY

RSKM , HALILULIK

24 – 31 May 2014

Patient consultations: 32

Operations: 25

Cleft lip: 13

Cleft palate: 2

Burn / contractures: 6

Others: 4

Waitlist: 11

Interpreter's Overview

Anastasia Stain

This year's Plastic Trip to NTT finally went ahead after new compliance rules from The Indonesian Minister of Health were met. There will no doubt be some fine tuning to be done on this front particularly as we can not be sure that the new political regime will keep the current procedure. This year's team was led by Dr Mark Moore, anaesthetist was Dr Andrew Wallace. Doubling up as theatre nurse and recovery nurse was Margaret Maloney.

The team left Adelaide on Friday the 23rd of May. We overnighted in Bali and flew out on Saturday

landing in Kupang. From Kupang to Halilulik was a rigorous 7 hour journey by road. Upon arrival, we were met with a welcoming ceremony by the "big family" of Rumah Sakit Katolik Marianum (RSKM).

We were very tired from our journey but the welcoming certainly cheered us up.

The next day we were straight into consultations to organise an operating list, this included patient assessment, weigh ins and operating schedule. In all 32 patients were seen resulting in 25 patients

deemed ready for procedures. Over the next four days these operation took place.

Also in attendance was the local RMOs, Dr Rezka and Dr Victor. Both said they were inspired and extremely grateful for the experience to work alongside and assist OSSAA's personnel. This for us is part of our brief for conducting surgery in NTT, i.e: imparting knowledge and skills to the local medical people.

On the Friday after the operation list was completed, we all drove to Atambua, the regency capital for a meeting organised by the hospital. Attendees were the OSSAA team, the Bupati and the personnel of the Atambua Public Hospital. Discussed were what takes place on an OSSAA visit ,

the organisational aspects proceeding a visit and what is necessary from both the Australian and Indonesian perspective to get the most value out of our offered services. The Bupati (the regent) hosted a dinner for us after which thank you speeches were given and Dr Mark

gave an acceptance speech in answer. Following the formalities, there was a karaoke show with dancing and much merriment ! We all enjoyed the occasion.

As always the staff and management at RSKM were so efficient in both the clinical and accommodation side of the trip. All the nuns were so helpful and catered for all our needs.

The food in particular, prepared by the sisters needs a special mention because it was absolutely superb ! A big thank you to all the sisters at RSKM who made the OSSAA trip runs smoothly.

Another person who has been a big contributor behind the scenes is Ibu Nunuk, the Lions Club representative in Jakarta who has worked tirelessly with Health Dept officials to try and formulate acceptable standard procedures for OSSAA requests to visit NTT.

Now we come to the departure !

All was not smooth here...a volcano on Sumba island decided to erupt, grounding all aircraft in Eastern Indonesia and as far south as Darwin for a couple of days. The ensuing chaos meant that we had to drive to Kupang from Halilulik (+/- 7 hours) . Here it was a matter of going to the airport with our luggage and awaiting our fate. Also at the airport were hundreds of other hopefuls trying to get off the island. As no aircraft were flying due to the ash cloud, we had to wait until flights resumed

in two days time. Safety was the main concern of everyone in this case and the only casualties were delayed operating list in Adelaide and revised work schedule for others...plus a measure of personal stress for the stranded team.

All in all it was a successful and enjoyable OSSAA trip with as always the main beneficiaries being the patients. Looking forward to going back.

Thank You

- Mary Ann Shaw – Port Augusta Hospital
- Kalyra- Knitting Group
- Ibu Nunuk from Jakarta District Lions Club 307 B1 for her continued valuable assistant with patients transportation, hospital needs and also of course the many meetings and negotiations with the Health hierarchy in Jakarta.
- The Bupati of Belu and the NTT Health Authority for their kind invitation to enable OSSAA to visit and serve the NTT community
- The Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin for their continuing support, documentation and provision of visas
- Pak Hendrik Tawur of BCB Travel Agent in Bali for organising and facilitating the internal air travel in Indonesia; particularly this time around as all travel arrangements were thrown into turmoil due to the volcanic eruption in Sumba.
- The various public and private hospitals in Adelaide , as well as the anaesthetic and sutures company (Johnson & Johnson), Duncan Armstrong- Terumo, Staff – DSS – Sterilising Dept at Royal Adelaide Hospital who have assisted OSSAA in this visit.



Identical twin boys with left incomplete cleft lip before and after surgical repair.



22 year old with severe neck contracture released in November 2013, returning for elbow and hand contracture



Bilateral incomplete cleft lip



Bilateral complete cleft lip and palate, with marked premaxillary protrusion – before and after cleft lip repair



Right unilateral complete cleft lip and palate – before and after cleft lip and nose repair



The team after the outpatient clinic



Sr Angela, Dr Andrew Wallace and the RSKM staff



Ibu Nunuk with cleft children and their parents



Dr Rezka, Marg Maloney and Dr Victor



Dr Hendrik, Pak Willem (Bupati of Belu), Dr Mark Moore and Dr Valens Pareira at RSUD Gabriel Manek