



**OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

## **TEAM VISIT**

**Rumah Sakit St Damian  
Cancar, Manggarai, Flores**

**September 24 – 30 2011**

## **TEAM LEADERS REPORT**

**Dr Mark Moore AM  
MB, ChB, FRACS  
Plastic & Craniofacial 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 Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Indonesia.
2. To continue to work with our local counterpart medical and nursing staff at the R.S. St Damian, Cancar in expanding their skills for the delivery of service to those patients with physical disability and deformity.
3. To continue to develop links with other charitable support services in Indonesia whose mission overlaps and compliments that of OSSAA.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Reconstructive surgical teams first began visiting R.S. St Damian, Cancar in 1993. Dr John Hargrave continued these visits under the auspices of ASEA Rehab until his retirement in 2000.

The close bond and trust developed between Dr John and Sr Virgula, who founded St Damian, built the foundation for a successful ongoing reconstructive surgical service by visiting OSSAA teams.

After more than 40years working in Cancar, Sr Virgula is soon to permanently return to Germany, and this visit was undertaken at this time to allow our team to farewell her.

## **OVERVIEW**

This plastic surgical team visit to R.S. St Damian was the second such surgical mission of the calendar year 2011. Following the earlier visit when patient numbers were relatively low, after coincident visits by other teams to nearby centres, this was a single surgeon team.

The team assembled in Bali on the Friday afternoon. A patient with significant burn contractures of the upper limbs from the nearby island of Nusa Lembongan was brought for review. Having had previous surgery at the Sanglah Hospital in Bali, she could no longer afford surgery there and was referred for treatment at Cancar. After discussion with her parents and benefactors, arrangements were made for her treatment the following week.

The next morning the team departed for Labuanbajo, where we were met by Cancar staff and Dr Joao Ximenes, who joined us from Timor Leste. Several cleft patients and a young girl with

an encephalocele from Komodo Island were reviewed at the Toko Sinar complex in Labuanbajo. Onward travel by road to Cancar allowed us to arrive by mid afternoon. Another nearly 30 patients were assessed in the clinic prior to days end.

On Sunday morning the consultation clinic, organised by the St Damian staff, continued into the early afternoon. More than 80 patients were assessed, whilst our counterpart Dr Harianto also saw about 50 others.

Enough patients were reviewed to fill the operating lists over the subsequent 4 days – indeed an extra two cases were operated on, after the theatre was set up on Sunday.

Among the consults were 69 new referrals and 20 follow-ups of our old cases. Cleft lip and palate was once again a common cause for referral – 34 patients being seen with clefts, of which 25 were new referrals. A number of the infant cleft patients require extra nutritional support, and were waitlisted for the next visit. These babies were given special cleft feeding bottles bought by the team.

One 6 week old baby with a unilateral cleft lip and palate was however over 5kg in weight and his cleft lip repair was performed uneventfully.

Pleasingly many of the clefts fell within the younger age group and could be repaired at an age appropriate time. Few older children or adults with unrepaired clefts were seen.

Our teams have now completed more than 650 cleft procedures in Flores since 2002.

Sadly, during the week the team saw a number of examples of advanced malignancy, where access to appropriate management or delay in treatment saw expression of the natural history of disease. Two cases of head and neck cancer treated on the previous visit represented with advanced local and regional recurrence reinforcing the difficulty in treating these cases where all the modern diagnostic and treatment modalities are not available. Other examples of advanced breast, abdominal and eye malignancies were also presented – the latter being bilateral retinoblastoma in a 2 year old.

A number of the long-standing burn contracture patients were reviewed, and further surgical interventions performed. Several of these children require repeated release procedures as their scar contractures recur with growth. Included among these was a young 17 year old male, who at first presentation more than 5 years ago had complete fusion of his legs to his thighs. Initial grafting then transformed him from walking on hands and knees to a normal upright gait. With a recent rapid growth spurt his old skin grafts have become unstable resulting in the need for further surgery.

The young girl seen in Bali required wide release and skin grafting of the hand and wrist. Burn scarring has caused her hand to be dislocated posteriorly – whilst the deformity has been much improved by surgery, the residual deformity will require extensive postoperative physiotherapy to further improve her hand function – this will be managed by the staff in Cancar.

A number of other patients with challenging clinical problems were also referred for assessment. A 4 year old girl from Komodo has a Fronto-ethmoidal encephalocele (FEME) which will require treatment in Bali or Australia.

Two cases of severe hypospadias were examined and referred to local paediatric surgical services, whilst two infants with dramatic hydrocephalus were beyond the scope of what can be offered by our teams here.

Dr Harianto again joined the team for the week, performing local excisions of a large number of skin lesions and lipomas. We were also able to discuss with him the arrangements and requirements to satisfy the Indonesian medical registration processes. This should facilitate easier organisation for future visits.

The local staff again provided the highest level of assistance in the clinic, operating theatre and post-operative ward. The team's nurse, Kate Cogill, brought with her a wealth of experience from working on Operation Smile missions around the world. Kate provided great expertise to the post-operative recovery room and supervised the provision of pain relief in the ward.

Our anaesthetist Brian Spain, on his 5<sup>th</sup> visit to Cancar provided most expert and uneventful anaesthesia for the 37 patients who had surgery. There were no issues of note operatively or during the post-operative period.

Our interpreter / co-ordinator Anastasia Stain proved a most efficient, and highly regarded liaison between the team and our hosts, meaning that all aspects of the visit, travel, communication, clinical service etc proceeded uneventfully.

Ibu Nunuk Ngesti, from the Lions Club of Jakarta was again present with the team – the support of this club for many of the cleft patents is most gratefully acknowledged.

At the week end all patients were discharged or stable. The team departed in the early hours of Friday morning (3.30am) to connect with a plane taking us to Bali. Onward transfers to Australia saw all team members home by Saturday morning.

## **SUMMARY OF TEAM ACTIVITIES**

September 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2011	Team departs Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin for Denpasar
September 24 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Depart Denpasar for Labuanbajo with onward travel to Cancar Consultation clinic.
September 25 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Consultation clinic Operations
September 26 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Operations and ward round
September 27 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Operations and ward round

September 28 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Operations and ward round
September 29 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Operations and ward round
September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Depart Cancar for Labuanbajo on onward flight to Denpasar. Depart Denpasar for Australia.



## **SUMMARY OF CLINICAL ACTIVITIES 24th-30th SEPTEMBER 2011.**

### **CANCAR TRIP**

**Total Patient Consultation: 88**

**Total Surgical procedures: 38 (37 patients)**

**Cleft Lip : 18**

**Cleft palate : 7**

**Burn : 6**

**Others (keloids,lump): 7**

**Dr Harianto: Local anaesthetics procedures: 32  
Other consultations: 19**

### **Members Plastics Team :**

Dr.Mark Moore	-	Plastic Surgeon & Team Leader
Dr. Brian Spain	-	Anaesthetist
Dr.Joao Ximenes	-	Assistant Surgeon
Ms.Kate Cogill	-	Recovery nurse
Ms. Anastasia Stain	-	Interpreter

### **Counterpart Staff St. Damian / St. Rafael**

Pak Ferdi Jaleng	-	Head of St Damian Rehabilitation Centre
Sr. Reginaldis	-	Head of Theatre
Sr. Therysia	-	Head of Yayasan St Damian Cancar
Dr.Harianto	-	Leprosy Specialist, Tangerang
Ibu Ernawati Kabora	-	Theate Nurse
Ibu Sabina Bayu	-	Theatre Nurse
Pak Ferdi Jelalu	-	Theatre assistant
Pak Ponti Kontamat	-	Orderly
Dr.Mario Suwandi	-	Community Doctor
Dr.Dinda	-	Community Doctor
Drg.Stefani Eka	-	Community Dentist
Enu Rachelle	-	Volunteer from Labuan Bajo (KPPC-KJ)



**Cancar Hospital**



Clinic



Team Photo





Before

Left unilateral cleft lip

After



Midline cleft



Jaw reconstruction





Pre Surgery

Left unilateral cleft

Post Surgery





Burn contracture

Post op – after release





Burn contracture legs  
Pre -op



Post op





Cleft Lip



Long term follow up



Scenes around Cancar





Scenes around Cancar





*Farewell Sr Virgula*

