

FOFH SURGICAL VISIT LABASA HOSPITAL

18TH JUNE TO 26TH JUNE 2015

TEAM MEMBERS

Mr. Avinesh Kumar General Laparoscopic Surgeon TAURANGA
Mr. Pravin Kumar General Vascular Surgeon PALMERSTON NORTH
Dr. David Binney Anaesthetist TAURANGA
Dr. Amrita Kumar Medical Officer TAURANGA
Dr. Vijenti Chandra Medical Office BRISBANE
Dr. Surend Chandra Dentist BRISBANE
Mr. Jim Nelson Cairns Anaesthetic Technician TAURANGA
Mrs. Glenda Nelson Cairns Nurse TAURANGA
Mrs. Jo Dunston Theatre Nurse TAURANGA
Mr. David Smith Theatre Nurse Tauranga
Mrs. Sarah Harcus Endoscopy Nurse TAURANGA





18/6/15

Tauranga group travelled in two vehicles and parked at the Airport Park & Ride.

The group was joined by Mr. Pravin Kumar from Palmerston North

The group travelled together from Auckland to Nadi, with overnight in Nadi then caught an early flight to Labasa

21/6/15

Brisbane members Dr. Vijenti and Dr. Surend Chandra joined the team.

Return Trip

Return trip from Labasa was split because of personal preferences, two left on 24th, two on 25th and the rest of the team returned on the 26th of June.

26th June was a public holiday in Fiji.

Return Trip to NZ was also split because of flight delays and personal preferences

19/6/15

On Arrival we were welcomed by the CEO, The Local Surgeon and the head of Departments.



ACCOMMODATION

Two nights in Raffles Nadi stop over nights

7 nights at the Grand Eastern Hotel Labasa, Host Site

Personal Arrangements with family in Nadi and Labasa at no cost to FOFH

CATERING

Dinner for some members at Raffles in Nadi

Labasa stay was generously sponsored by Ami Kholi and Rotary Labasa except for one night, at Grand Eastern Hotel paid by FOFH

Midweek lunches were provided by Labasa Hospital



After the formalities, around 10.30, we started seeing patients at the surgical clinics, together with the local staff, **In Total we saw 75 patients.**



Initially only **46** were booked to be seen. We made a point of seeing everybody who came to the clinic, a lot of the patients arrived on the day, as they heard about the visiting team.



A total of 36 patients were than selected for surgery, clinic finishing around 1700hours.

After the clinic, the team did a ward round, to assess and discuss the problem cases already admitted in the ward.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team was busy going through the previously sent supplies and organizing for the following week. The Anesthetic technician spent his time sorting and checking the anaesthetic machines and gear in theatre as well as setting up the donated gears.



Two operating theatres were available to us, with the local nursing staff and very keen anesthetic registrars.

We also had to allow for emergencies, in between our cases, especially caesarian sections. The wards had enough empty beds for our patients.

Laboratory and radiology services were excellent.

<u>IN TOTAL 32 PROCEDURES WERE DONE IN FOUR DAYS</u>	
Total Thyroidectomy with Lt Neck Dissection for thyroid cancer	1
Total Thyroidectomy - very Challenging cases	6
Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy	7
Biliary Fistulae with CBD Stone Explorations	1
Open Cholecystectomy and CBD Stone Exploration	2
Large Umbilical Hernia Mesh Repairs	2
Large Bowel Cancer Resection	1
EUA & Defunctioning Colostomy Recurrent Cancer	1
Laparoscopy & Colonoscopy	1
Colonoscopy/Bronchoscopy	2
Open Inguinal Hernia Repair	2
Stapled Haemorrhoidectomy	1
Parotid cyst aspiration	1
EUA/Rectal advancement Flap complex Fistulae	1
EUA anal Stretch	1
Excision of Large Rt Neck Lump	1
Oesophagoscopy and removal Foreign body	1

Dr. AMRITA & VIJENTI helped in the casualty, seeing children





Dr. Surend Prakash organised workshop with local dentists (Hospital/ Private)



DONATED GEARS

1. I was able to secure TWO Laparoscopic Towers from New Plymouth Southern Cross Hospital. These were functional and with the help of Mathew Hogg (engineer for Stryker) got it refurbished and set up in Labasa hospital by Stryker Engineer. All units were functioning and producing high quality images, great asset to Labasa people.

2. Two refurbished diathermy machines were donated by Tauranga Hospital, which were put to immediate use as local gear was too tired and unsafe.

3. Endoscopy gear (PROCESSOR AND SCOPES) donated by Grace Hospital Tauranga is well utilized and it was great to get the In-service training to local staff by the accompanying endoscopy nurse.

4. Three blanket warmers (BBAIR HUGGER MACHINES) were donated by North Harbor Southern Cross Hospital.

This equipment was very essential for lengthy operating procedures, to prevent hypothermia, which we faced previously. Even though they arrived a bit late they were very useful.

5. Two anesthetic machines donated by Eye Clinic, Tauranga and Grace Hospital, Tauranga last year are being used locally

6. Lots of consumables were donated by Covidien, Johnson & Johnson and Grace Hospital.

Left over gear was left for local utilization.











TEACHING AND INSERVICE TRAINING

This was done throughout the week at different levels by various members. Unfortunately we did not do a Grand Round presentation because of time constraints.

Glenda, one of our nurses did a presentation for the nurses, which unfortunately, were very poorly attended, apparently some sort of communication breakdown between the nursing staff.

There was a lot of enthusiasm shown by all staff, eager to exchange ideas.

For all high-tech donated gear, we had session discussing about troubleshooting and maintenance.

We noticed that there are a few gears donated to the hospital without back up. So in future any donations send, we have to make sure that it is worth sending and not just sitting in a corner collecting dust.

There is three biomedical staff at the hospital which is encouraging.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As FRIENDLY NORTH goes, they kept up with their hospitality. A trip to Savusavu was organised by the local Rotary club and Mr. Ami Kholi, unfortunately weather beat us to fishing but we had two good swimming sessions.

It is amazing to see how much the town has grown. On the way we visited Savusavu Hospital. Donated a few instruments and we toured the hospital so that the team could appreciate the local facility first hand.

Ami Kholi accompanied us everywhere and looked after us very well; he is a great friend and ambassador. I would like to suggest a letter of appreciation be sent to him.



The final night dinner was hosted by Labasa Hospital Staff and Board of Visitors and they were very appreciative of the work done and of the donated gears.



Relaxing after a hard day's work.

DEBRIEFING

I had a good chat with the Medical Superintendent, the Surgeon and the Chief executive about our work, contribution and the way forward to improve the facility and care of the people. This was very well received. Again the mission would not be successful without the support of the local team.

I haven't had time to have discussions with my team about their experience but reports will be coming in, so I will forward those when available.

MY THOUGHTS

Certainly, the place has moved on for the better. It was good to see Laparoscopic Surgery take off; remember this was set up last year.

With better gears they will be more comfortably done.

I was astounded by the presence of very large goitres, presented to us, with cancers and airway problems; fortunately, this is one of my areas of interest so I was able to help some of them.

There were two thyroid cancers which were too far gone and beyond surgical intervention.

Bile duct stone in three patients were very challenging as there were limited instruments available but we managed to solve the issues with success.

Gall Stone disease as Kidney Stones are very common and complicated. There is a very urgent need for an Image intensifier (real time x-ray machine) to help manage these issues, something to think about.

The team contributed jointly to make it a huge success. Everybody was satisfied with their contributions.

FINALLY

This project could not have happened without the support of you all. I would like to personally thank Rajesh who has put in; a lot of hours from planning/registration issues/booking transportation, accommodation/packing/seeing us off at airport/local organization etc.

FOFH should be very proud of the projects being done in FIJI. I will try and expand the manpower issues so more frequent trips could be made.

We already have Mr. Pravin Kumar. Surgeon from Palmerston North involved and three other surgeons have agreed in principle.

I sincerely thank my team members who have sacrificed a lot for this mission.



MR AVINESH KUMAR
GENERAL & LAPARO-ENDOSCOPIC SURGEON
TAURANGA