

Albanian Paediatric Surgery and Urology Teaching Project

*Qendra Spitalore Universitare
“Nene Tereza” Tirane*

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A project of Kind Cuts for Kids,

supported by

The Department of Paediatric Surgery, Qendra Spitalore Universitare, Nene Tereza, Tirane

and

Albanian Department of Health

Paediatric Surgery – Albania 2014

Introduction

This report details the Albanian component of the recent visit to the Balkans, which is the fifth visit to Tirana, and one of four country visits to the Balkans in 2014, each part of the mission designed to provide teaching and service related to the care of children with complex Paediatric Surgical disease.

Two Albanian girls came to Melbourne almost a decade ago, their visits, sponsored by the Moira Kelly Foundation, resulted in the subsequent contacts that lead to the first trip into the Balkans in 2011. Rosetta, pictured below, is one of those girls, now a young woman, who achieved a good outcome that has included follow-up treatment in her own country. It is achieving the primary surgery in the Balkans that has been progressively achieved through the on-going contact between Kind Cuts for Kids and Albanian surgeons. The education and participation has included Dr Dritan Alushani travelling as part of the team to Mauritius in October 2011. The hospital photo shows the recent refurbishment.



Four Country Summary

Since 2011, 13 country visits have occurred into the Balkans, five of which have been to Albania, during which there have been 117 consultations related to 87 different patients, and 174 operations on 54 patients. Of these, 19 have had two anaesthetics, two have had three anaesthetics and two have had four operative episodes over the 4 years. Overall in the Balkans there have been 123 patients who have been operated upon, undergoing 381 procedures that have followed 347 consultations.



Consultation Clinics

A total of 50 patients were reviewed on a total of 52 occasions; 38 males and 12 females; most patients were seen on the Sunday on which the team arrived, while others were seen prior to the operative sessions each day. More than one appointment occurred for the same child when investigations that had been arranged were reviewed.

Unfortunately, there had been only partial screening of the patients, and only minimal staff involved in the clinics, which gave good service to the patients seen, but limited the senior staff involvement in the teaching and learning experience. However, a large number of patients and a dedicated small team made the clinics very productive. Notable patients that engendered much discussion were patients with a dehiscid abdomen, and a horse-shoe kidney child with a pyelostomy, who was thought to have presented initially with malrotation.

One of the marked features of the visit was the presence of a 2 year post graduate volunteer who could be regarded as an exceptionally gifted surgeon. Also, it was fortunate that a general surgical trainee was able to attend: Marsela Sopiçoti – General Surgery – 4th year post graduate.

A lack of images for ultrasound, audit meetings and clinic-radiological sessions was noted, and suggested as changes to management of the service.

The patients included children with the following pathologies:

Anorectal anomaly	5	Megarectum	2
Duodenal web	1	Spina Bifida	1
Tethered cord	1	Constipation	1
Female hypospadias	1	Urinary tract infection	1
COPUM	7	Primary megaureter	1
Intersex	2	Neuropathic bladder	1
Epispadias	2	Vitello-intestinal sinus	1
Hypospadias	2	Turner's syndrome	1
Bladder exstrophy	3	Hirschsprung's	1
PUJ obstruction	4	Perineal Lipoma	1
Horse-shoe kidney	1	Peritoneal web	1
Penoscrotal trauma	2	Hydrometrocolpos	1
Cloaca	1	Acute scrotum	1
Neuroblastoma	1	Small bowel pathology	1



A baby with the pelvis of the right side of the conjoined horse-shoe right kidney attached to the skin; a patient about which there was much discussion.

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Operative Procedures

During the most recent visit to Albania, 51 patients were seen and 16 were operated on, showing that the screen of patients had not been able to occur in Albania to the same extent as in both Bosnia and Kosova. This relates to the recent ill-health of the Chairman of the Department and the lower proportion of surgeons to population, limiting the time available to manage the patient load and pre-visit screening. The numbers also relate to the need for a greater number of patients requiring Kind Cuts for Kids follow-up of previous interventions. Overall, during the five Albanian visits, 174 procedures have been performed on 54 patients who had operations over five visits; 148 patients in total from 176 consultations.

Pathology	DOB	Date	Operation
Wound dehiscence	31/03/2014	14/06/2014	Ileocolonic Resect
"	"	"	Laparotomy + closure of ileostomy
PUJ obstruction	27/10/2004	"	Pyeloplasty - redo
Anorectal anomaly -	21/07/2007	13/06/2014	Vesicostomy
"	"	"	Urethral dilatation + cystoscopy
"	"	"	Pena - redo
PUJ with stone	24/03/2001	"	Ureterocalycostomy
Scrotal trauma	5/04/2002	"	Scrotal exploration
PUJ with stone	24/03/2001	"	Retrograde PG + cystoscopy
"	"	"	Removal of Double J
"	"	"	Pyelolithotomy
Duodenal web	12/01/2012	"	Ladd's procedure
"	"	"	Incis. duodenal web + imbrication
Hydrometrocolopos	2/12/2013	12/06/2014	Vaginovaginostomy
"	"	"	Laparotomy + vaginotomy
COPUM – PUJ	23/03/2012	"	Pyeloplasty
Vitellointestinal sinus	19/09/2013	"	Ex Vitellointestinal
Neuroblastoma	3/05/2012	"	Ex Neuroblastoma
COPUM - bifid sacrum	16/10/2004	"	Cystoscopy
Vitellointestinal sinus	19/09/2013	"	cystoscopy
Bladder exstrophy	23/04/1997	11/06/2014	Urodynamics + Cystoscopy
Intersex	11/08/1994	"	Vaginectomy
"	"	"	Scrotoplasty + urethroplasty
"	"	"	Hypospadias - UB 1
Duplex with DJ + stone	17/02/2002	"	Retrogr. pyelogram
"	"	"	Removal of DJ stent
"	"	"	Pyeloplasty
"	"	"	Nephrotomy
"	"	"	Nephrolithotomy
"	"	"	Cystoscopy
COPUM – ureterostomy	11/09/2009	10/06/2014	Ureterost. Closure
"	"	"	Ureterocystopl. – L
perineal Lipoma – hernia	5/12/1998	"	Repair perineal hern.
perineal Lipoma	"	"	Perineoplasty
"	"	"	Ex of perineal lipoma
Hydrometrocolopos	2/12/2013	9/06/2014	Vaginoscopy + Cystoscopy
Anorectal anomaly	8/01/2012	"	Pena – redo
"	"	"	Hernia - ventral
COPUM ureterostomy	5/06/2012	"	Cystoscopy + Fulguration



Hospital Equipment

The Paediatric Surgical Unit in Tirana is relatively small, with good theatre and ward facilities; there are some short-comings in the equipment, and some processes of theatre management and organisation of the overlap of outpatients and theatre time that could be addressed. The lack of images for those who have ultrasound and the lack of clinico-radiological meetings, and the lack of audit meetings are issues of organisation that have been both discussed and are being attended to. Meetings with Ministers in the past and the Australian Ambassador, on this occasion, help focus a wider audience on both the problems and the solutions.

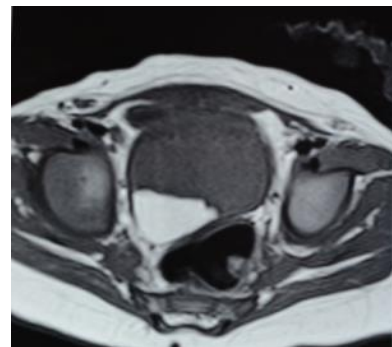
One particular feature of all the visits to Albania has been the excellence of the theatre nursing staff. The concentration of the small, but dedicated team is seen in theatre; and Dr Dritan Alushani (right) and Professor Dewan photographed on the evening of the dinner hosted by the Australia Ambassador to Albania, Mr Mike Rann (left).



Clinical Cases

Case 1

Megan, a one year old girl, was found to have an obstructed and refluxing left ureter and a bladder pushed to the right on an X-ray with contrast in her bladder. The second radiography is of an MRI scan that shows white material sitting at the bottom of a cystic structure. Cystoscopy, Vaginoscopy and subsequent exploration showed her to have two vaginas, one of which was blocked and filled with menstrual fluid that had been stimulated by her mother's hormones. Division of the septum separating the two vaginas resulted in a simple procedure from which she easily recovered.



Case 2

Gerald presented with vomiting that lead to a radiological study that involved swallowing barium; the barium meal identified a very large duodenum consistent with what is known as duodenal atresia. A condition well known to the Albanian Paediatric Surgical team, the additional expertise added to the management of the child was the advantage of infolding of the duodenum to improve the time to development of full function. The X-ray shows the “double bubble” consistent with the diagnosis; the operative photo is of the suture line of the duodenum that has been longitudinally infolded.



Clinical Cases (cont'd)

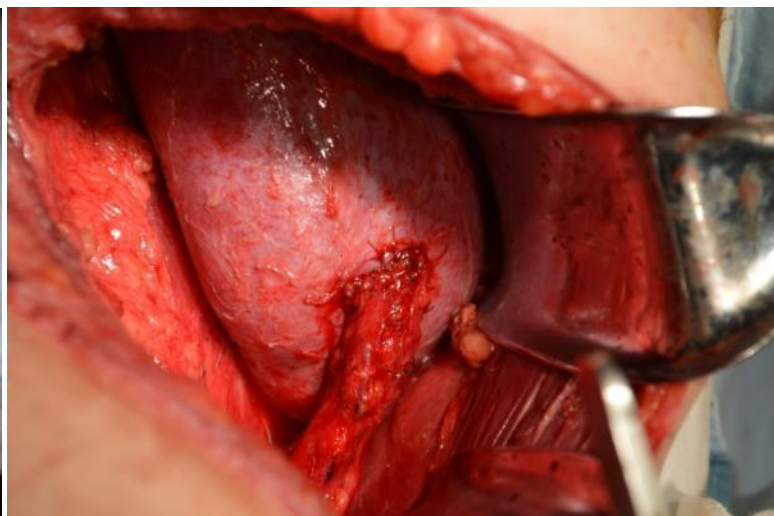
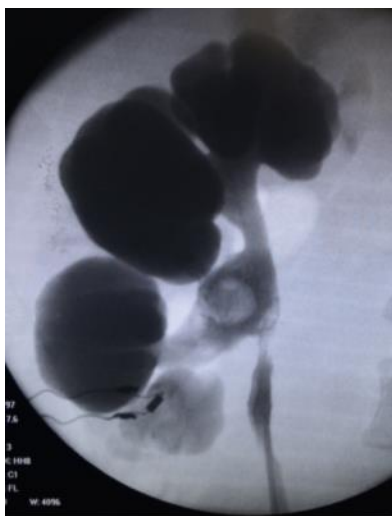
Case 3

Fation, a two year old boy seen after his operation for the removal of an abdominal cancer; the success of the surgery and the satisfactory outcome from the chemotherapy suggests he will go on to live a normal life.



Case 4

Dionis, a teenage boy, presented with kidney pain and a urine infection, following which he was found to have a stone in his kidney; the obstruction at the outlet of the pelvis of the kidney is shown on the radiography, as is the stone in the renal pelvis. The boy needed the unusual plumbing solution that involves the joining of the ureter to the lower pole part of the kidney drainage system, known as Ureterocalycostomy; the operative photo shows the tubular ureter attached to the pink/purple kidney.



Sponsors and supporters

Lawson Delaney, our Gold Sponsor, ODC Design and Baumgartner Partners, our Silver Sponsors, plus our Platinum Members are the principal contributors to the financing of the Albanian project; important and significant further contribution has been made by fundraising activity within the Albanian community in Melbourne, the Manningham and Preston Rotary Clubs in Victoria, with additional contributions from Europe, including Dr Dritan Alushani and the Taip family. Warner Webster also assisted by providing discounts for surgical equipment taken as part of the mission. The Sky Hotel, in Tirana provided a discount for the accommodation.

The initiation of the Balkans project should be recognised, including John Taip, Reg Karafili and Sezar Jakupi from the Australian Albanian community and Gary Zecevic, an Australian/Montenegrin whose donations have significantly added to the scope of the project. And, while all those associated with the project in both Australia and Albania made their own contribution, the ongoing commitment of Dr Dritan Alushani from the Nene Teresa Hospital and his medical and nursing colleagues has been paramount to the success of the project.



Our greatest supporters are the families that put their trust in the work we do.