

Paediatric Urology and Paediatric Radiology
Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore

Professor Paddy Dewan and Dr Padma Rao

16th - 18th June 2004



A visit sponsored by

Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation

The brief visit made to CMC Vellore by Dr Padma Rao and Professor Paddy Dewan was designed to further the Australian association with the Paediatric Surgery and Urology Services in Vellore, and to develop contact with the Radiology Department in Vellore.

We were greeted by the Deputy Director Shirley David and proceeded to the Department of Paediatric Surgery, undertaking a review of the Paediatric intensive care and the neonatal the wards, as we headed to the main Paediatric Surgical ward.

Some of the notable features of the visit included observing the active participation of the families in the comforting children, both by the mothers sleeping on the bed with the patient, staying close to the children and often patting or stroking their offspring, as seen in the pictures.



To encourage the mothers to participate in the care of their young-ones, the hospital provides beds in a communal room, with a "user pays" process for the provision of a mattress. Certainly one way of providing incentive to stay with the child!



The ward round was conducted by Dr Sudipta Sen, accompanied by his surgical trainees, and involved discussion of Paediatric Urology cases, and general principles, plus the radiological investigation of General Paediatric Surgical cases, which included:

- Bladder exstrophy
- Mitrofanoff with COPUM
- COPUM
- Hypospadias
- Pelviureteric junction obstruction
- Choledochal cyst
- Bladder augmentation
- Neuropathic bladder
- Vesicoureteric reflux
- Epispadias
- Hypospadias - three cases
- Cloacal exstrophy
- Neonatal bowel obstruction

The intranet was used to review radiographs, and the most notable achievement of the ward round was assisting the Paediatric Surgical team to identify that a lateral radiograph, from both sides, adds little to a single-sided view.

An important observation during the ward was the availability of disinfectant solution at the end of the each bed (as pictured below), known to be the best solution for hand hygiene, but little used in Australia.



Following the ward round, and Department lunch, Dr Padma Rao was taken on a tour of, and participated in a clinic meeting in, the Radiology Department. Meanwhile, Professor Dewan joined the surgical team in the operating room, where he assisted with a pyeloplasty, with the team shown below.



The surgery was on a young infant with bilateral hydronephrosis, who had a left pyeloplasty. Exposure was limited by the lack of a Denis Browne ring retractor; a number of other factors made the operation more problematic:

1. Betadine solution is 5% rather than the optimal 10%.
2. The suture was 5/0 catgut on a large needle, making suturing more difficult.
3. Disposable diathermy tips are reused multiple times.
4. Radiology images are readily available via the intranet, but not in the operating rooms, thus images were not displayed.
5. Single use diathermy *pads* are reused several times.
6. Single use diathermy *pencils* are reused multiple times.

Involvement in the operation gave an excellent opportunity to discuss the diagnosis of pelviureteric obstruction, and the use of stents and nephrostomy tubes in the post-operative management after pyeloplasty. The discussion was further facilitated by an initial misplacement of the intrarenal catheters, a problem the combined team worked collaboratively to solve. The surgical staff in Vellore were pleased to learn a technique for improving the ability to suture deep in a wound, and to consider the debate for selective use of stenting and nephrostomy catheters in the management of surgery for obstruction at the pelviureteric junction.



In the evening, Professor Paddy Dewan presented a lecture on vesicoureteric reflux, urinary tract and catheterless ureteric reimplantation. Dr Padma Rao provided commentary on the radiological investigation of the urinary tract, as did Vellore Medical Staff from various specialities, including Nephrology, Urology, Paediatric Surgery and Paediatrics. Subsequently, an evening dinner facilitated further Paediatric Urology discussion, enabling furthering of plans for a Paediatric Urology workshop in 2005.

The visit was a further project of the *Kind cuts for Kids Foundation*, funded by Professor Dewan and Dr Rao.