

**Surgical Services
Division of Pediatric
Orthopaedic Surgery**

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India Mission Trip Report

In January-February 2015, for the third consecutive year, a medical team from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) travelled to Ahmedabad, India to provide free surgical treatment to children with complex spine and upper extremity deformities. The trip was coordinated and organized by physicians from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Department at CCHMC in conjunction with Sheth V.S. General Hospital – a government hospital in Ahmedabad, India. The team was headed by Peter F Sturm, MD and included orthopaedic surgeons, Shital N Parikh, MD, Viral V Jain, MD, Kevin J Little MD, and Micah Sinclair, MD, anesthesiologist Jagroop Mavi, MD, and Neil Patel, MD, neuro-monitoring personnel, Tiffany Frye and Kelly O'Neil, and Medtronic representative, Kevin Amongero. The surgical instruments and implants were donated by Medtronic, USA. The neuro-monitoring equipment and supplies were donated by Evokes Inc – a Cincinnati-based company. Bone graft products were donated by Allosource, a nonprofit bone allograft processing organization in USA.

Between Jan 31 – Feb 5, seven children with complex spine deformities (scoliosis / kyphosis) and 12 children with upper extremity deformities were operated upon. Each spine surgery lasted an average of 6 to 8 hours. A visit to 'Apang Manav Mandal' – a house for disabled children, helped to identify children who could potentially benefit from surgery. The upper extremity procedures included patients with brachial plexus palsy, cerebral palsy and arthrogryposis. The local orthopaedic surgeons and anesthesiologists assisted CCHMC physicians during these procedures, thus providing an opportunity for each team to participate in complex medical decision-making process. The orthopaedic residents scrubbed on each case and were involved in academic discussions related to patient care.

The CCHMC team was provided great hospitality by V.S. General Hospital and their physicians, and all team members were immensely proud and satisfied to be part of this mission trip. On Feb 4, 2015 the CCHMC team members were facilitated by the Ahmedabad Orthopaedic Association during an evening CME event.

Appointments

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Besides surgeries, the CCHMC team members could get the taste of traditional Indian culture during their visit to local sight-seeing places. Typically, the evenings involved varied Indian cuisine and local shopping. It was ironic that the 'mahout' of the elephant ride was an orthopaedic patient treated for a humerus fracture after a fall off the elephant.

The trip prompted significant educational and cultural exchanges and was viewed as a great success and achievement by both sides. We plan to continue building on this relationship by conducting similar annual mission trips focusing on the areas of identified pediatric orthopaedic need in India.

I, on behalf of the entire team, would like to thank Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Sheth V.S. General Hospital, India to allow us to be part of this wonderful trip and to be able to make a difference in the life of our patients. I would also like to thank Medtronic, Allosource and Evokes, Inc for their generous contribution.



Shital N Parikh, MD

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