

Surgical Services

Division of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

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James J. McCarthy, MD

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Sheila Chandran, MD

Roger Cornwall, MD

Alvin H. Crawford, MD

Jaime Denning, MD

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India Mission Trip Report

In January 2013, a medical team from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) traveled to Ahmedabad, India to provide free surgical treatment for complex spinal deformities in children. The trip was coordinated and organized by physicians from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Department at CCHMC, in conjunction with the Polio Foundation – a non-profit charity hospital in Ahmedabad, India (www.poliofoundation.org). The surgical team was headed by Alvin H. Crawford, M.D. and included surgeons, Shital N. Parikh, M.D. and Viral J. Jain, M.D., anesthesiologist, Senthil Sadhasivam, M.D., neuro-monitoring personnel, Tiffany Frye and Janice Mader, and representative of DePuy Spine, U.S.A., Brian Marzano. All surgical instruments and implants were donated by Depuy Spine, U.S.A.. The neuro-monitoring equipment and supplies were donated by Evokes, Inc – a Cincinnati-based company.

Between January 7th and January 13th, six children with complex spine deformities (scoliosis / kyphosis) were operated upon, with each surgery lasting for an average of six to eight hours. The local spine surgeons and anesthesiologists from Ahmedabad assisted CCHMC physicians during these procedures, thus providing them an opportunity to participate in complex medical decision making processes. On the 13th of January 2013, a full-day CME spine symposium was jointly organized by the Polio Foundation and Gujarat Spine Association, wherein live surgical demonstration of scoliosis correction and lectures by CCHMC team members were attended by 70 spine surgeons from across the state.

The CCHMC team was provided great hospitality by the Polio Foundation and their physicians, and all team members were immensely proud and satisfied to be part of this mission trip. On January 9th, 2013 the CCHMC team members were facilitated by the State Minister for Education during an evening reception event. The trip also received publicity in the local newspaper and television media.

Besides surgeries, the CCHMC team members could get the taste of Rajasthani culture during their one-day visit to Udaipur City, which is known for its palaces and gardens. They could also witness the Uttarayan Festival celebrations of Kite-flying on the 14th of January, 2013.

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

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this relationship by 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 the Polio Foundation, India to allow us to be part of this wonderful trip and to be able to make a difference in the lives of our patients. I would also like to thank DePuy Spine and Evokes, Inc. for their generous contributions.



Shital N Parikh, MD

Attached: Patient details and photographs