

UROLINK REPORT, LILONGWE NOVEMBER 2023

Paediatric urology, visit to Lilongwe 13 to 17 Nov 2023.

Introduction

This was a follow-up after the [initial visit in March 2023](#), details of which are on the BAUS website.

During the first visit it was established that there was a need to build capacity for specialist paediatric urological reconstruction. Two “local champions”, Dr Charles Mabedi, Head of Urology at Kamusu Central Hospital (KCH) in Lilongwe, Malawi, and Amarylis Mapurisa, a paediatric surgeon, were trained to enhance their existing skills in paediatric reconstruction. At that first visit a total of 17 procedures were carried out including 4 first-stage hypospadias repairs, necessitating second-stage reconstruction at the 6 month point. This visit was arranged to follow up on the progress made by the 2 local champions and to help deal with these second-stage repairs.

Ram Subramaniam flew into Lilongwe on 13th November, after Diwali, and was able to see, and assess the appropriateness of the cases for surgery over the next 4 days (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Prof. Ram assessing cases on the children’s ward with Dr. Amarylis.

Cases

Surgery commenced on 14th. Out of the 13 cases, Prof. Ram led in 5, assisted in 3 and was not scrubbed on 6 occasions. Table 1 is a summary of what was done.

	Diagnosis	Age	Procedure	Surgeon(s)	Plan/Comment
Day 1	Cloaca	1.5yrs	EUA, cystoscopy	CM, RS	PSARP by local team
	Bladder exstrophy		EUA	RS, BN	Recto-sigmoidostomy by local team
	Previous TIP		Re-do TIP	AM, RS	
	Midshaft hypospadias		TIP	CM, AM	
	Peno-scrotal hypospadias		1 st stage with free preputial graft.	AM, RS	
Day 2	Sub-coronal hypospadias,	1.5yr	TIP	CM, Trainee	
	Penile torsion, coronal hypospadias	9yr	Torsion correction, TIP	RS, AM	
	Post 1 st stage	5yr	2 nd stage tubularization	RS, AM	
	Coronal hypospadias	6yr	TIP	CM, Trainee	
Day 3	Post-PUV incontinence.	7yr	Cystoscopy	CM	Detrusor myotomy next visit
	Failed fist stage	7yr	Re-do first stage with free groin flap	RS, CM, Plastics	For second stage at next visit
	Peno-scrotal hypospadias	11yr	1 st stage	CM, Trainee	For second stage at next visit
Day 4	Post posterior sagittal ano-rectoplasty peri-anal fistula	2yr	Perineal fistula repair	RS, BN	

Key: RS: Prof Ram. CM: Charles Mabedi. AM: Amarylis Mapurisa. BN: Bip Nandi.

Table 1. Theatre cases performed, with surgeons, and outcomes during this second visit.

Reflections

The benefits from the two visits were very obvious.

1. First, the local champions have been actively doing hypospadias surgery since the first visit. This provides clear evidence of skill transfer even just after one visit.
2. Secondly, the outcomes from the first visit were very encouraging, especially as far as the complex cases were concerned. For example, the graft take following first stage repair in March is excellent, demonstrating that a skilled procedure, paying attention to blood supply, is

paramount for wound healing even when these children cannot be followed as closely as we would in UK.

3. Thirdly, Prof Ram only led 5, assisted 3 and was never scrubbed in 5 out of 13 cases. This is a clear demonstration of the progress made by the local team at KCH.

Plans for the future in hypospadias surgery at KCH

It seems that a follow up visit by Ram is warranted for two main reasons:

1. First, to follow-up on further progress made by the local team.
2. Secondly, to operate on the patients that could not be accommodated on this visit.

The next visit would ideally be in a years' time; November 2024. This should allow ample time for the local team to put into practice the newly gained skills from this current visit and to allow the first stage cases to stabilize, mature, and be ready for second stage tubularization.

Reported By

Charles and Ram

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