

Urolink report on trip to Zambia, Zimbabwe [and Dar es Salaam, for ASEA 14th November to 5th December

I flew from Manchester to Amsterdam on first KLM and then Kenya Airways to Lusaka as they have been excellent in the past. I was carrying quite a lot of equipment including a brand new resectoscope for Bulawayo, Mpilo hospital. My excess baggage cost me £650, the jobs worth on the desk was a miserable young women so I will have to change my airline again, advice on this problem would be useful.

Arrived Lusaka 15th morning in time for a ward round and a mock exam tutorial for the candidates taking MCS and FCS Gen. Surg. in Dar in 2 weeks time.

Next day 16th did an operating case for Dr Manda [the other senior urologist] at least I was inveigled into it. This patient had a large tumour which filled bladder, ruptured as I was handling it and started bleeding. He just about made it off the table but died despite me doing the quickest cystectomy ever in 10 mins. The only good thing is he died peacefully although a few days before he would have done.

17th did a good list with Mohammed Labib alternating, 2 TURBTs , 3 strictures, 1 prostatic biopsy, 1 cystoscopy. We had to cancel the open case as no anaesthetic relaxant reversing agents in the hospital. We still have a problem here that the nurses expect me to pay them if they work on into the afternoon. But we didn't so they didn't get paid; the senior sister was a bit miffed! This all started 4 years ago when we took the television team out to film, [they paid] now they expect it every time but the inflationary greed has made them increase their charges by 200%!! Still they don't get paid much so I am sympathetic.

18th went with Labib and Rachel Guest medical student from Imperial [niece of Tim Philp of The Institute] to Monze 2+ hours away at crack of dawn, killed a goat on the way Labib was worried about paying the farmer compensation I was worried about the 4X4!! Great day, good operating. Michael and I did a mesh sling [Sparc AMS] and a rectus fascial sling for post VVF repair stress incontinence, not sure if it will work but worth a try, there seemed to be enough good tissue around the urethra so as not to erode. Michael also excised a huge urethral diverticulum. Next door Labib did 4 open prostatectomies. Now the difference was that these staff including

anaesthetist were all happy to work as long as was needed that is the difference between university and mission hospital. Rachel really enjoyed herself we might make a surgeon of her yet.



After a ward round and a good lunch cooked by his housegirl, who was there 2 years ago and is called Phallus [or Fallus] sounds just as bad, Rachel and Labib went home to catch planes to UK and Tanzania [KCMC biennial workshop run by Phil T and Griff F] respectively. Michael and I went for a swim which I declined, a beer or three and then I watched the worst film ever on DVD called Dead Ringers. Avoid it.

Went home next day by fairly posh bus. The bus had air conditioning anyhow. Next day 20th went to Harare, met by Christopher Samkange with an empty petrol tank he said he had another 140 Kms to go before he ground to a halt. I went through the customs with my equipment and they looked at the resectoscope and asked me how much and I said I don't know it's a gift and the catheters and sutures etc I replied were donated from the NHS and she roared with laughter and let me through.

I did some lecturing, wards rounds and teaching for the MCS/FCS exam again, the stay was enhanced by the fact I stayed with Christopher and wife and 3 youngish kids had a great time. Went to a school prize giving, watched Cool Runnings on DVD on laptop and watched the kids swim. Their big dogs took a shine to me and Peter Pan insisted on leaping up and wiping his sandy paws on my clean polo shirt so every day I was dirty at the start. The car ponged there was a dead rat in the engine, which we could not get out. The unnecessary trip to the airport for a plane which never came was a waste of petrol. So next morning I took a taxi and went to Bulawayo met by Dr Ashmawy's wife and went first to the Mater Dei [private] and then Mpilo hospital [Govt] sorted out their endoscopic equipment. The new Storz scope was joyously received, but it did not have a diathermy cable for the new single pronged loops.



They only had an old double pronged one at Mpilo so they can't use the new one yet or at least the working element and the loops. I will sort out and send on my return. Dr Ashmawy is keen to join BAUS His son is now at York University and he will come over to UK occasionally, cost is the prohibitive factor. Excellent day finished off well by meeting medical friends of the

family in the evening also met the other urologist Dr Enweren from Central hospital. Then things went pear shaped the flights were all cancelled on Zimbabwean Airways on the Friday so Mike Cotton Gen Surgeon at Mpilo, bless him, got me a car lift with a surgical SHO from Leeds to Victoria Falls [where he was white water rafting], took 5 hours missed two tortoises by inches and lots of baboons leaping about. I crossed over the border over the narrow bridge, which the loonies bungee jump off, got to Livingston. Got a minibus crammed full, 8 hours to Lusaka, one pee stop at 12mn. Flying things with a wing span of a foot in the bus, and religious music to send us to heaven in the right frame should we crash. The driver would not let me go to the loo in the bus station in Lusaka at 4 am till it was daylight 6am, and then accompanied me. Wasn't that caring, he said I would be mugged. Had a good rest of the day with Labib's family and went to the cinema. Zambia has good shopping malls but the cost of living has shot up.

Went to Airport next day with Mona driving despite her bad back. Off to Dar es Salaam. I was the external examiner for the MCS exams of COSECSA representing the RCSEd on the Monday 28th and the FCS in general surgery on the Tuesday, both clinicals and orals. In all 17 candidates. Brilliant cases, a girl with gastric outlet obstruction with a huge stomach and amazing visible peristalsis. I was assisted by Bob Lane, President of ASGBI. Ian Ritchie, Rahima Dawood lecturer from RCSEd was also examining for the MCS and FCS Orth, the Brits were well represented. There was a strike of doctors on so they were lucky to get the patients in order to hold the exam. Then there was 3 days of ASEA [Assoc. Surgeons of E.Africa] meeting.

Labib gave a good paper on 450 open prostatectomies in the last 5 years, with minimal blood loss. Christopher Samkange and I chaired the urology session, Prof Krikor from Lusaka, collapsed ?intracranial something or other, shades of me a year ago. Incidentally I am fine but my liver has suffered a bit from the Kilimanjoro local brew. The next exams etc are in Malawi late Nov 2006 and I have been asked back to help run them . I just love these people. What a great time I have had.

Home 5th Dec.

Thanks to Mrs Karl Storz, Stuart Anderson and Richard Greenhalgh for the new resectoscope.

Urolink for fare to UK to Lusaka [return], Jim Foster CEO of RCSEd kindly gave me £400 for the Dar leg, to go to the COSECSA exams [Total £1150 of which Dar leg was £400]

Dar hotel bill \$580 part subsidised to the tune of \$350 as an examiner by COSECSA really nice hotel. Hotel, overcharged me \$48 refunded after fuss. I am still a bit broke over the original XS baggage, need to negotiate better with Airlines any ideas anyone?

Thanks to the Labibs, Samkanges, Ashmawys and Mike Cotton and Michael Breen for hospitality and friendship and help.
Mark Bishay for driving me to Vic Falls.