

## **HEALING LITTLE HEARTS MISSION REPORT**

**Date of Camp from 6 January to 11 January 2019**

**Hospital: An Najah National University Hospital  
Address: Nablus Country: Palestine**

### **HLH Team Members & Roles**

Mr Ram Dhannapuneni – Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Dr Rob Johnson – Consultant Cardiologist, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Dr Syed Sanaullah – Consultant Anaesthetist, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Dr Anand Wagh – Consultant Intensivist, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Dr Petr Jirasik – Consultant Intensivist, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Mr Richard Downs – Perfusionist, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol  
Ms Mirianna Rucco – Scrub Nurse, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital, Liverpool  
Mrs. Liz Mansfield – PICU Nurse, Alder Hey, Liverpool  
Mrs Katie Kaye – PICU Nurse, Alder Hey, Liverpool

### **Theatre sessions:**

**Monday:** AM and PM – 3 sessions

**Tuesday:** AM and PM – 3 sessions

**Wednesday:** AM and PM – 2 sessions

**Thursday:** AM and PM – 3 sessions

**Friday:** No operating (Perfusionist had to leave early and there were no straightforward cases for quick recovery)

#### **Day 1:**

##### **Type of procedure/age and weight of child**

1. PA banding: 1 month, 2.9 Kg
2. Complete Atrio Ventricular Septal Defect repair: 7 months, 3.9 Kg

#### **Day 2:**

##### **Type of procedure/age and weight of child**

3. Arterial Switch Operation, 2 weeks, 3.0 Kg

#### **Day 3:**

##### **Type of procedure/age and weight of child**

4. PA banding, 2 months, 2.9 Kg
5. BT shunt and PA plasty on CPB, 9 days, 3.3 Kg

#### **Day 4:**

##### **Type of procedure/age and weight of child**

6. VSD, PFO and PDA: 5 months, 6 Kg
7. BT shunt, PDA ligation: 2 weeks, 2.9 Kg

8. ASD, PDA ( Trainee case): 3.5 years, 14 Kg

**Day 5:**

**Type of procedure/age and weight of child**

ICU and ward round, hand over

Visit to Bethlehem in the afternoon

**Summary of Activities:**

**How many theatre sessions/duration** – 11 sessions

**Daily ICU ward rounds?** – Yes

**Outpatient sessions?** – Yes by the cardiologist

**Education Activities?** – Formal lecture to residents by the cardiologist

Bedside teaching by PICU to local doctors, residents and nurses

Operative teaching and training to a junior surgeon and a resident in theatre.

**Mission achievements:**

**How many patients treated and summary of surgeries** – 8 operations

**Number of Extubations within 24 hours post-op** – 2

**Anything exceptional/unusual/a first** – The case load was not of a routine camp due to the strange well established referral patterns and the urgent cases coming from other NICU/PICUs. There were 4 small babies referred from Gaza. The cases normally are referred to one paediatric cardiac center in Palestine and to Tel Aviv in Israel. We were told there was reluctance to accept high-risk cases and they ended up at our camp. 6 children were under 4 Kg, 4 neonates, 4 Downs children. We have performed the first Arterial Switch Operation in Nablus in this setting. The baby had hyperkalemia (not had fresh blood, which is a normal practice) and later the K levels in the blood bag was found to be 26mmol. The baby went in to junctional and VT rhythm problems and cardiac arrest post op. Resuscitative attempts were not successful. Lessons have been learned from this case and were widely discussed with all team members.

**Surgical/other training started?** – Yes, A junior surgeon who was trained in Italy with pediatric experience had recently started at the near by Habron doing mostly adult cardiac cases. He had been invited and joined the camp. Nablus are looking to recruit him, which would be good as they also plan to recruit a paediatric cardiologist and intensivist. There is already a US trained paediatric anaesthetist. A resident who works in Tel Aviv also joined the camp. Nablus are planning to groom him and send him over to UK for further training which I could support.

### **Aims in future HLH missions to this Hospital/Centre**

An excellent and enthusiastic local team supported by the dean and management. They are committed to develop a paediatric center and trying hard to recruit a surgeon, cardiologist and intensivist. There is a need for a paediatric center in Palestine and this center has good potential to develop one with good funding sources and support. The team and hospital are excellent hosts.

### **Anything else you feel we should know**

I am more than happy to lead another camp in a year's time, continuously support the local team and help support the juniors with observer ships or fellowships if they qualify for GMC registration.

### **Report by**

**Name of Author** - Mr Ram Dhannapuneni

**Role** - Lead and consultant cardiac surgeon

**Normal work place** - Alder Hey Childrens Hospital, Liverpool, UK

**Team Leader (if different than author)**

**Team Leader role** - Consultant Cardiac Surgeon and Camp organiser

**Date** - 15 January 2019

### **£100 Discretionary spend on consumables - list items**

Not used