

Friends Of Fiji Heart Foundation Paediatric Heart Mission 2014.

Debrief – Friends of Fiji Paediatric Cardiac Visit 2014

1. Introduction

For more than twenty years Fiji has benefitted tremendously from annual visits of Open Heart Team International to Suva. In 2007, Friends of Fiji Heart Team launched its first visit to Lautoka Hospital to provide similar services. In 2014, for the first time, the team included a Paediatric Team team to operate on Fijian children with cardiac disease, mostly congenital heart lesions, at Lautoka Hospital, hence, realizing a dream that was hatched on a golf course in Auckland.

2. Objective

- a) Provide diagnostic echo screening for Fijian children
- b) Provide surgical repair mostly for congenital heart lesions where a single corrective operation is anticipated and selected valvular heart lesions, particularly where transfer overseas may be of high risk.

3. When: 1st – 12th September 2014

4. Where: Lautoka Hospital

5. Whom:

- Dr. Kirsten Finucane - Paediatric Cardiac Surgeon
- Dr. John Wright – Paediatric Cardiologist
- Dr. Brent Mc Sharry – Paediatric Intensivist
- Other members of the team included Anaesthetists, perfusionist, PICU nurses, general ward nurses and other support staff

Local Team:

Dr. Tieri Waqanicakau – paediatric registrar

Dr. Donna Mokoroa - paediatric intern

S/N Ana Ramaka – clinic nurse

6. Funding: Various charities through Friends of Fiji Open Heart Team

7. Activities

a) Cardiac Surgery

Referred From:

- Suva (CWM Hospital) – 3
- Lautoka Hospital – 9

Types of cases operated:	Number
Tetralogy of Fallot	4 (included a 27 yr old with congenital pulmonary stenosis and ASD)
VSD	2
SubAortic Stenosis	1
PDA	2
TAPVD	1
Mitral stenosis	1
Pericardial window	1

Operating Schedule Friends of Fiji Paediatric Heart Team – 2014

Wednesday 3 September:

1. SN 27 years 60kg
open pulmonary valvotomy
RVOT muscle resection ASD closure
2. AT 12 years 46kg 165cm
VSD closure via Aortic Valve

Thursday 4 September:

1. ST 8 weeks 4.5kg 62cm
Repair of TAPVD to Coronary Sinus
2. MT 8 years 14.5kg 121cm
Open mitral valvotomy
3. SP 2 years 11kg 98cm
Repair Tetralogy of Fallot (VSD + RVOT)

Friday 5 September:

1. MA 16 months 9kg 81cm
Closure Muscular VSD (Pulmonary HT)
2. GP 11 months 9.3kg
Repair Tetralogy of Fallot
3. SDH 18 months 9.7kg 79cm
Repair Tetralogy of Fallot with Monocusp

Saturday 6 September:

1. ST 17 months 9kg 86cm
Repair of Tetralogy of Fallot
2. AK 3 years 11.6kg 96cm
Resection Sub Aortic Membrane
3. PM 8 years
L. Thoracotomy & PDA division
4. SM 5 years
L. Thoracotomy & PDA division

b) Consultations

Local consults

- 13 yr old with ectopic atrial tachycardia – team assisted with managing this very complicated life threatening arrhythmia. This child is now discharged on anti-arrhythmic medication and worked up to go to NZ for electrophysiology study and radio frequency ablation through ROMAC funding.
- 6 yr old Kiribati girl with tetralogy of Fallot and frequent tet spells plus severe cyanosis down to oxygen saturation of 52%. This child was on route to India for repair of TOF. She was funded by ROMAC for surgery in Starship accompanied by team doctor

Echo clinics – extra ordinary echo clinics booked for Mon 8/9 and Tues 9/9. In addition, 5 new inpatient echos done

c) Diagnostic Echo:

Intra-operative:	9
Post-operative:	11
Clinic review:	16

8. Outcome:

- All surgeries went very well.
- Majority (9/12) of cases were discharged within the first week post-surgery. The last child discharged 2 weeks later more to ensure good nutrition. Overall, there were no significant untoward events during operation and immediate post -op period.
- Evaluation and family counseling for baby with tricuspid atresia by Dr. Wright
- one child with life threatening arrhythmia successfully managed
- safe transfer of Kiribati child with TOF to Auckland, NZ for surgery
- Upskilling of local doctors in caring for post cardiac patients

9. Acknowledgement:

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to the following individuals and organizations for this first inaugural visit by Friends of Fiji Heart Team Paediatric Heart Team to operate on 12 Fijian children in Lautoka Hospital and make it a great success.

1. Dr. Finucane & Dr. Wright and the the New Zealand Paediatric Heart Team
2. Friends of Fiji Heart Foundation Team
3. Mr. Deepak Tahal and Trustees of Friends Of The Pacific Foundation
4. Lautoka Hospital Management
5. Paediatric Department Staff
6. Eric Horne and Geoff Dainty in their personal capacity as Present and Past Chairman of ROMAC NZ [Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children
7. Donors & Supporters

Special Thanks to;

Dr. Rigamoto Taito,
Head, Department of Paediatrics,
Lautoka Hospital