

### First Eye Surgery Mission to Al Khalil ( Hebron)

PCRf is proud to report on the first eye surgery mission to Hebron conducted by Dr Amal al Sayyed from Jordan and myself (Dr Francis Nathan) 12 to 18 March 2010.

This happened by chance as the original venue for the surgery was to have been in Nablus as on previous numerous occasions. We found out 2 days prior to leaving that the renovation work at Rafidia Hospital in Nablus was not completed and hence the mission was diverted to Hebron.

It was quite a challenge as eye surgery had not been done before at the Queen Alia hospital, the main public hospital in Hebron.

Altogether 50 surgical procedures were performed, 24 cataract operations with lens implants and 26 oculoplastic and squint operations. The local surgeons who assisted us were Dr Ashraf and Dr Akram and the operating room staff was led by Mr Aiman.

Dr Amal al Sayyed performed all the oculo-plastic operations and squint surgery (operation to straighten “crossed” eyes).

She is a Consultant eye surgeon specializing in Oculoplastics and Squint surgery at the Plaza Al Khaledy Medical Center in Amman, Jordan.

Doing squint surgery requires more planning as the pre-op preparation is crucial and also usually involves children or young adults, with their own unique set of requirements, like general anesthesia for the surgery.



Before squint surgery

Eyes divergent



After – eyes straight

The hospital had recently been equipped with all the basic “hardware” like an operating microscope, biometer, keratometer and a laser.

Somehow the instrument sets for cataract surgery had not arrived in time but fortunately I had brought along 2 of my own sets and we got going after screening the patients on the first day.

A total of 130 patients were screened on the first day and more were seen during the next few days as word got around about the mission.

Drs Ashraf and Akram are highly motivated to provide free eye surgery to the disadvantaged and to work together with PCRF to conduct future eye surgery missions at the Queen Alia Hospital .It was pleasing to note the good co-operation with the Anesthetic staff and the OR staff to enable the mission to run smoothly over 5 days.

Special mention must be made of Amal, the PCRF Co-ordinator who worked to gather the patients before the clinic and make all the arrangements for transport and housing of the patients.

She was ever-present throughout the clinic and spent long hours after the surgical sessions to publicise the clinic and provide transport and hospitality for the team.

The hospital director was extremely pleased with the outcome of the mission and is very keen to have another mission before the end of the year, possibly in October.

I want to thank PCRF for providing the ground support in Hebron and the Australian Friends of Palestine for their contribution towards the airfares.

I also want to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of supplies from Alcon and Bausch and Lomb for the cataract surgery portion of the clinic.

Thank You,

Dr Francis Nathan

Senior Visiting Ophthalmologist, Royal Adelaide Hospital

Clinical Lecturer, University of Adelaide



Dr Amal al Sayyed (L) and Amal, PCRF Co-ordinator (R)