

Guadalupe ENT Clinic November - December 2012

This year's ENT Clinic got off to a bumpy start when our luggage didn't make it to Quito with us. But after several phone calls to American Airlines and with the help of Padre Jorge, the bags were found and delivered to us in Guadalupe four days later. Thank goodness, since they were filled with the donated medical supplies we'd collected as well as our clothes. But our joy was short-lived. No sooner had our bags arrived than we received



the 2012 ENT team

word that one of our anesthesiologists had to cancel at the last minute. We were very happy to have the help of Dr. Dusan Milenkovic, an anesthesiologist from Serbia, during our first week, but we had to scramble to find a solution for the remaining time.

Luckily Drs. Rori Cedeño and Vanesa Rojas, Ecuadorian anesthesiologists from Loja, were willing to come during their free time on three occasions. This meant six day work weeks for our OR team, but we still had plenty more cases to do. What to do? Padre Jorge appealed to the head of the hospital in Zamora, who sympathized with our plight and generously agreed to let us use their facility and staff during our final week. However, as on a previous occasion, the anesthesia pace was glacial and not



the new friendship bridge

suitable for our caseload.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Wiebke Eisfeld from Germany on our team this year, an ENT physician and wife of Dr. Matthias Eisfeld who was with us two



Mission compound



Machala tympanoplasty patients post op

years ago. Clinic Coordinator Amanda Anderson, RN, accompanied Wiebke to remote villages of Santa Rosa the week before our arrival, where they treated many indigent patients, some of whom had never been seen by a doctor before. Their *jornada* was organized with the help of a former surgical patient of mine from the coastal city of Machala.

She worked together with Amanda for a smooth operation. Those who were surgical or hearing aid candidates were bussed to Guadalupe during our second week there, and they camped overnight in a building on the Mission compound.



Katja fitted 80 hearing aids



the big parade

Several of them suffered from otosclerosis, an inherited conductive hearing loss that is amazingly frequent in the province of Oro. With the generous help of Eric Engelke of the Medtronic company, I had enough prostheses to perform eight stapesplasties.

For the first time we had an audiologist with us, Katja Schnorbus, who was sponsored by the German hearing aid company Kind. OR nurse

Hannelore Münch joined our team for the second time, and was an invaluable assistant who worked long hours together with me. Nancy, my wife and former practice manager, once again was responsible for recruiting and organizing the team and assisting with patient management and data entry. Amanda was

her usual indispensable self, wearing many hats each day. As in previous years, each of our team members brought valuable donations of supplies and equipment with them.



very imaginative floats

My routine was much easier this year, with Wiebke screening patients for surgery and Katja

doing all the audiograms and fitting hearing aids. We were able to see nearly 600 patients and perform 125



crusty sourdough bread



evening fun at the beach barbecue

attend local festivities in the village. The Clinic Staff threw a “beach party” on the river bank for us, coincidentally on Thanksgiving Day. We dined on barbecued ribs, corn on the cob and fried plantains. Instead of pie we had chocolate cake for dessert, baked by Dr. Andrea McCullough, the only other American besides Amanda, Nancy and me. After the



P. Jorge, Pepe and his bride

procedures, of which 40 were ear surgeries under local and 70 nasal cases under general anesthesia. A record 80 grateful patients were fitted with donated hearing aids.

Despite our heavy work schedule due to the anesthesia situation, we found time to socialize with the medical and dental volunteers, bake Padre Jorge’s favorite sourdough rye bread, enjoy Sunday night dinners by candlelight on the veranda, and



relaxing evenings on the veranda

feast a generator provided power for loudspeakers and lights and we danced under the stars, together with the nuns and Padre Jorge. Another highlight of our month was attending the wedding of Pepe, the loyal handyman who has been working at the Mission for many years. The nuns hosted the reception with a special dinner and wedding cake, and afterwards there was music and dancing. We spent our final weekend hiking, relaxing and eating good meals at our favorite Ecolodge Copalinga near Zamora.

All in all we had a very rewarding experience, my 11th time in Guadalupe since 2004.

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