

‘VISIT JANUARY 2014‘

Report by Dr. Kirsten Graubner | Asmara, 8.-15. Januar

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**09. Jan** We arrived at the 9th of January in Asmara after a long but successful visa process at 5 am in our hotel. At 9.30 we started with the screening of the Gyne patients. The chief resident Dr. Kiflom had prepared the screening procedure very carefully. This time we screened the cancer patients first. The operation schedule was settled in the morning of the 9th with 5-6 major operations per day. At the same afternoon we scheduled 3 patients for operations and started after a short lunch break. With the 2 Eritrean anesthetists Desale and Mebrahtu the operations went on very safely and quickly. Apart from major Gyne operations we did several Caesarian sections and introduced the new operation instruments, which were thankfully organized and very well selected by Sabine Schwenkner.



Dr. Kirsten Graubner

**10. Jan** We operated 7 patients without problems (1 debulking operation at an ovarian carcinoma FIGO III). A big compliment to the very interested and engaged residents for the good preparation. In between the operations we visited the patients on the ward and the residents presented cases to me for a second opinion. Due to Desale and Mebrahtu all patients were prepared very well, all the blood we ordered was ready and the two managed every unpredictable situation very calmly and quickly. The changing time between 2 operations was 20-25 minutes without any surveillance room. The last patient was a 30 year old lady who delivered in the morning. She suffered from an advanced Vulva carcinoma and had a complete vulvectomy with reconstruction of the urethra.



Anesthetist Desale Tewelde

**11. Jan** We did another 5 operations, 3 of them cancer-operations, 2 Wertheim operations, 1 ovarian cancer operation. Fortunately no major problems occurred. In the evening we had dinner with the residents and had the possibility to speak to them. During the lunch break we introduced the new CTG machine which we brought to Asmara. Different from what I expected there is nearly no knowledge of CTG surveillance of pregnant women.



Anesthetist Mebrahtu Teclegergis

**13. Jan** We operated again 5 major operations. The residents figured out a kind of rotation system that allowed 2-3 residents in the operation room every day. As before big parts of the operations were performed by the residents. Dr. Kiflom really improved his operation skills. From the young residents especially Dr. Methani has craftwork skills. For some of the new residents it will take some more time to learn careful behavior in the operation theatre.

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**14. Jan** The first Eritrean German Oncology workshop took place in the Orotta Hospital. Before the workshop started we did 2 operations, one of them was a 15-years old girl with a 6-7 cm tumor in her left breast. In the afternoon after the workshop we did another two operations.

In the whole week we did 24 major operations fortunately without severe problems. Thanks to Dr. Kiflom for the very good preparation, thanks to all residents for the really good support and the interest to learn, we really had fun together. Thanks to the Anesthetists for their wonderful work, I felt like home and to Prof. Traudl for giving them the time to work with me. And a very special thanks to Sabine who prepared everything for me and guided the scrub nurses with her incredible patience. Without her we couldn't have done 5-7 major cases every day.

#### Conclusion

1. Dr. Kiflom did a very good screening and indicated the patients well for the operations
2. Dr. Kiflom is able to perform prolapse operations and hysterectomies by himself
3. The young residents need to practice more
4. The anesthesia team is really good
5. The whole team is very willing to work
6. The CTG surveillance needs more practice
7. The young residents need more guidance in Caesarian sections

**Step by step is the right concept for Eritrea.**



Dr. Kiflom, Chief-Resident