

Primary Trauma Care (PTC) Course Report

Suai, Timor Leste, 12th – 13th March 2010

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Purpose of the visit

This visit had two main aims.

1. Deliver training in trauma care to the staff of the Referral Hospital Suai. This was identified as an area that needed addressing by Dr Irene, the Director General of Referral Hospital Suai.
2. For the team from Dili (RACS and NHGV ED staff) to become better acquainted with the staff and needs of Referral Hospital Suai with a view to providing ongoing support.

Executive summary

A two day PTC course was run at the Suai Referral Hospital in Timor Leste on March 12th and 13th. There were 11 participants, all of whom worked at Suai Hospital. 1 participant was a Timorese 'GP' doctor; 3 participants were ED nursing staff; 5 participants were anaesthetic techs; an ambulance officer; and 3 health staff not directly related to emergency care.

The standard 2 day PTC course plan was followed with the following variations. Burns was done as a small group activity rather than a lecture. The final MCQs were not done and instead a discussion with the faculty, the course participants and hospital administrators was held on the barriers to implementing PTC in Suai, and what the next steps should be.

Facilities were adequate for teaching and the proximity of the ED to the teaching area allowed some teaching to be done in the ED which worked well.

The course was well received. Evaluation was completed. All aspects of the course were rated as good or above by participants. Comments were generally positive (more time, do again, etc).

The course organiser will continue to liaise with Suai hospital medical staff and a second visit to Suai is planned in about six months.

Key staff involved in planning and co-ordinating

Dr Irene, Director General of Hospital Referral, Suai
Dr Antony Chenhall, Long Term Advisor, Emergency Department, Dili, Timor Leste
Dr Eric Vreede, Long Term Advisor, Anaesthetics, Dili, Timor Leste
Mr Sarmento Corea, logistic support, RACS office at NHGV Dili.

Professional aspects of the visit

Two day PTC participant course

Meeting with hospital staff including; course participants (which included most of the ED staff), Director General, Director of Nursing, to discuss the situation at the hospital and supports that we may be able to offer.

Dinner meeting with Dr Irene (DG) and Dr Abel

Course participants

Dr Abel D. de A.F. Lay (General Practitioner, referral hospital, Suai)
Caillito S. Belo (nurse in charge, ED)
Cipriano Freitas (anaesthetic tech, OT)
Estanislau Carvalho (ambulance officer)
Francisco de Araujo (anaesthetic tech, OT)
Lucinda Mendonca (nurse, ED)
Marcos da Silva (dental tech)
Maria de Fatima Amanal (nurse, ED)

Odete da Costa Noranha (lab tech)
Patricio do Caimo (anaesthetic tech, OT)
Victor S. Barreto (anaesthetic tech, OT)
Carmen de Jesus Gusmau (midwife) (day one only)
Natrino Barreto Dos Santos (medical student) (day two only)

Course Instructors

Dr Antony Chenhall (Emergency Physician) Long Term Advisor, Emergency Department, Dili, Timor Leste
Dr Eric Vreede (Anaesthetist) Long Term Advisor, Anaesthetics, Dili, Timor Leste
Dr Stephen Watson (Emergency Medicine Registrar) Darwin, Australia
Francisco Borges (Staff Nurse) Emergency Department, Dili, Timor Leste

Details of activities

Two day PTC participant course
Meeting with hospital staff including; course participants (which included most of the ED staff), the Director General of Referral Hospital Suai and Director of Nursing, to discuss the situation at the hospital and supports that we may be able to offer.

Subsidiary activities

Dinner meeting with Dr Irene and Dr Abel

Contents of the Primary Trauma Care course

Day 1

Introduction
Local trauma perspective and MCQ
ABCDE of Trauma and Primary survey
Airway and Breathing
Circulation and Shock
Skill stations Airway
 Cervical spine
Secondary survey
Scenarios (done in the ED using the equipment actually available in ED on the day)
Overview and summary

Day 2

Chest injuries
Abdominal injuries
Paediatrics and Obstetrics
Workshops Burns
 Transportation
 Paediatrics
Demonstration Scenario (done in ED using a real patient)
Scenarios
Summary and evaluation

The following topics were not covered in specific lectures but were all covered during workshops and scenarios

Limb injuries
Head and Spinal injuries

Evaluation of the success and relevance of the visit

The visit was a qualified success.

We delivered a 2 day PTC course to 11 participants, which included one Timorese resident doctor and three ED nursing staff. We had good engagement from the participants during the course, particularly for the small group activities. The participants evaluated the course positively. The final discussion involving hospital administrators (DG and Director of Nursing) was a worthwhile innovation and identified some of the barriers to actually implementing PTC principles in Suai. The meeting with Dr Irene and Dr Abel following the course identified further barriers.

By running some parts of the course in the ED we were able to highlight to the ED staff the deficiencies in their current set up, most of the required equipment was available in the hospital (often in theatre) but many things were not readily available in ED. Following the course some suggestions were made as to how the set up could be improved and we plan to follow this up.

Staffing levels in the ED on any given shift are one or two nurses and one Dr (on call). As such team work with other departments (OT staff/ward nurses) is necessary in any major trauma case. However a number of the identified long term problems in Suai related to problems with teamwork and co-operation between different hospital departments and staff (with some longstanding issues underlying this). 'Teamwork' was emphasised in the Suai PTC course, however, due to the local situation, the PTC course alone is unlikely to significantly improve teamwork.

Only three of the ED nursing staff attended the course.

PTC Course evaluation forms

Dates and Location	Suai, Timor Leste March 12 th and 13 th 2010						
Number of Participants	11						
	1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Average	4. Good	5. Very Good	Number of responders	Mean Response
Local trauma perspective	0	0	1	9	1	11	4
The ABCDE of trauma and Primary Survey	0	0	0	2	8	10	4.8
Airway and breathing	0	0	0	5	6	11	4.55
Circulation and shock	0	0	0	6	5	11	4.45
Workshops/Skills stations (day 1)	0	0	1	7	3	11	4.18
Secondary Survey	0	0	0	9	2	11	4.18
Scenarios (day 1)	0	0	1	7	3	11	4.18
Chest Injury	0	0	1	8	2	11	4.09
Abdominal trauma	0	0	1	7	3	11	4.18
Trauma in Children and Pregnancy	0	0	2	6	2	10	4
Burns	0	0	0	3	7	10	4.7
Workshops/skill stations (day 2)	0	0	0	7	4	11	4.36
Scenarios (day 2)	0	0	0	7	4	11	4.36
MCQs	0	0	1	7	2	10	4.1

Summary of comments from the evaluation forms

Comments were consistently favourable. There were suggestions for the more time to be available, particularly for more time to be spent of the workshops and skills stations. It was also suggested that more time could be spent on paediatrics.

Summary of multiple choice questionnaire scores before and after the course

Due to language constraints the MCQs were done as a group activity using power point. This was useful as an icebreaker and to gauge the level of knowledge of the group. The MCQs were not repeated at the end of the course as we elected to use this time for a group discussion including course participants and some of the senior administrators at the hospital. We discussed the barriers to applying the PTC principles in Suai, the way forward and where we (RACS/the ATLASS program) might fit into that. We aim to have some MCQs translated into Tetun by the next Timor PTC.

Observations and recommendations for future visits in your speciality and suggestions as to how such visits could be modified to contribute further to the projects objectives

A subsequent visit is planned in approximately 6 months time. One purpose of this visit will be to follow up how the PTC principles are being applied, how the ED set up has been improved and if anything further needs to be done. I also plan to deliver further training during this follow up visit. A number of areas of need came up during the end of course discussion; better training in suturing, fracture management and also training in emergency care for paediatric patients. The type of training delivered at the next visit will be arranged in close consultation with Dr Irene (the DG at Suai hospital).

Details of any teaching or other material provided

The team (RACS) also donated a number of text books to the hospital on subjects related to surgery and anaesthetic at the district hospital level.

Acknowledgments

Director of Nursing, Referral Hospital Suai, for arranging the venue and refreshments.
Dr Abel, for assistance with translation.