

Concept Paper Surgical Intervention for Children with Chronic Tonsillitis

Title	Surgical Intervention for Children with Chronic Tonsillitis
Organization	Ahli Arab Hospital- Gaza is one of more than 35 institutions run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The Hospital is 50 beds providing medical and rehabilitation care for the most deprived in Gaza Strip. It provides in and outpatients in general surgery, medicine, gynecology obstetrics, pediatrics, ENT, Orthopedics and urology.
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Submitted to	JMECA Trustees
Period of the Project	October 15, 2015 to November 30, 2016
Number of Beneficiaries	40 children with chronic tonsillitis
Overall Goal	To contribute in Improvement of Children Health and Reduction their Morbidities
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To prevent complication of delayed treatment of chronic tonsillitis▪ Enhance the wellbeing of poor children who are suffering from chronic tonsillitis.▪ Increase health service accessibility for the indigent children.▪ Ensure high quality of care provided to the poor.
Situation Analysis	<p>As of today, Gaza is almost completely sealed off by a blockade imposed by Israel, which has been bolstered by the near-total closure of the Rafah crossing to Egypt since October 2014.</p> <p>The poverty among individuals in Gaza Strip reached 38.8% against 17.8% in the West Bank. Data indicated that there is a clear difference on the level of unemployment rate among refugees and non-refugees, as unemployment rate among refugees reached up to 33.7% compared to 22.3% among non-refugees (PCBS, 2015).</p> <p>Gaza hospitals are operating under impossible conditions. They are suffering from Lack of theatre spaces, shortage of surgical staff, lack of surgical subspecialties; even beds are in such short supply. There is nowhere to send the patients post-operatively, with Shifa (main Government hospital) ICU full, and no vacant beds in surgical wards.</p> <p>The services within the Government hospitals have been deteriorated to the</p>

	<p>extent that patients have even been sharing beds, and others are being discharged prematurely. Infection control is bad and post-operative complications including death become inevitable.</p> <p>Deaths are already occurring from a lack of timely treatment, as the numbers of patients far exceed the capacity of the staff. It is estimated that a 50% shortfall in staff numbers to deal with the case loads presenting at the Government hospitals for treatment, resulting in some patients are receiving suboptimal care while others receiving none at all. (MoH, 2014).</p>
Relevance and Justification	<p><i>Chronic Tonsillitis</i></p> <p>Half of Gaza's population, some 950,000 people, are children under the age of 18. Epidemiological bulletin of Palestinian MoH reported that 28,247 patients with URTI during the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015.</p> <p>The adenoids and tonsils in the upper airway are very small at birth and then they grow during the first 4 years of the life. They tend to shrink toward the adolescence period. During this period, children with adenoid and tonsillar hypertrophy could show some pathological symptoms and signs. It is stated that recurrent acute and chronic inflammation cause adenoid hypertrophy in some children. Adenoid and tonsillar hypertrophy can cause serious diseases from snoring to Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome (OUAS), based on pharyngeal obstruction and respiratory disorders while sleeping. Snoring, mouth breathing, apnea and enuresis nocturnal (EN) are detected as the most frequently seen symptoms during night.</p> <p>Inflammation or swelling of the tonsils from frequent or ongoing (chronic) tonsillitis can cause complications such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty breathing• Disrupted breathing during sleep (obstructive sleep apnea)• Infection that spreads deep into surrounding tissue (tonsillar cellulitis)• Infection that results in a collection of pus behind a tonsil (peri-tonsillar abscess) <p>If tonsillitis caused by group A streptococcus or another strain of streptococcal bacteria isn't treated, or if antibiotic treatment is incomplete, the child has an increased risk of rare disorders such as: Rheumatic fever or Post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis.</p> <p>Rheumatic fever will damage the children hearts and destructs their valves; also, it damage their joints. Furthermore, streptococcal infection result in acute glomerulonephritis which could be ended to chronic glomerulonephritis and renal failure.</p> <p>To avoid these dramatic complications, inflamed tonsils should be surgically removed and long acting penicillin should be initiated.</p> <p>According to Ministry of Health children in need for tonsillectomy should wait</p>

	<p>for at least 36 months on waiting list (MOH Sept. 2015), which becomes a real threat on the future wellbeing of thousands of children in Gaza. Giving the fact poor families cannot afford treating their children in private health sector.</p> <p>AAH has a good reputation with a highly well-experienced surgical staff. Also, the surgical department and operating theaters are equipped with modern machines and professional infection control program.</p>
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">40 Male and female children from 2 to 3 years of age distributed all over the marginalized and poor areas of Gaza Strip.
Selection Criteria	<p>Children with chronic tonsillitis living in poor and marginalized areas</p> <p>Children who are suffering from severe and recurrent upper airway obstruction with apnea.</p> <p>2 to 3 years of age and poor.</p> <p>Complicated cases with chronic tonsillitis</p> <p>Patient doesn't have health coverage.</p> <p>Patients on waiting list for more than 12 months</p> <p>Internally displaced as a result of last war</p>
Selection Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The hospital ENT surgeon will examine the children and recommend tonsillectomy for those who met the criteria for tonsillectomy.Social unit will do the necessary study on each beneficiary economic and social situation for eligibility for the free treatment.Pediatric and Anesthesiologist acceptance for the cases
Place of Implementation	Ahli Arab Hospital, operating theater and surgical department
Budget	7200 US\$ = £5,000 GBP 40 cases X 180 US\$ / £120 GBP each

PCBS (2015). On the Eve of the International Day of Refugees (20/06/2015)
http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_IntDyRef2015E.pdf

MoH (2014). Gaza Hospitals in Crisis: Surgery being Performed in Corridors, on the Floor
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/gaza-hospitals-in-crisis-surgery-being-performed-in-corridors-on-the-floor/5394182>