

Student Elective Report

Name	Farhaan Khan
Medical School	University of Cambridge
Email (optional)	

Country visited	Cambodia
City or town	Phnom Penh
Hospital/unit/clinic	The Children's Surgical Centre
Dates visited	18/06/18 - 27/07/18
Supervising doctor	Dr.Gollogly
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)

The Children's Surgical Centre is a non-government funded hospital in Phnom Penh providing rehabilitation surgery to poor disabled Cambodians free of charge. It specialises in T&O, plastics, ENT and ophthalmic surgery. Most of my time was spent scrubbing-in and assisting in theatre in an array of surgeries most notably tendon repairs, burns contracture release, nerve injuries and SCC/BCC excision. A specialist maxillofacial/plastics surgical team from France was visiting at the time so I was fortunate enough to witness and assist in complex facial reconstructions, an experience I can never forget. Aside from theatres, I followed patients through from pre-op to post-op, took an active role in clinic consultations and witnessed the innovative ways the centre would achieve desired outcomes in a limited resource setting. A key focus at CSC is the training of local surgeons which I was able to contribute to by delivering some topical oral presentations and generating posters for reference. A challenging aspect of the visit f

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)

Perhaps the greatest problem was the language barrier between me and the patients which hindered communication. This meant that I couldn't perform clinic consultations independently but had to rely on the local surgeons/staff to act as an intermediary and translate on my behalf. Apart from slowing down the consultation, this wasn't as tedious as I first thought because most surgeons were able to speak and understand English well and would use the opportunity when translating to provide me ad hoc teaching on the patient's pathology. Outside of clinic consultations, I didn't have any issues with communication perhaps because most of my time was spent in theatres where patients

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