

Professor Dr. Peter Engelhardt, former Head of Orthopedic and Trauma  
Department at St. Josph Hospital Berlin, Kunzendorfstr. 16 14165 Berlin

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Dr. Berhane Debru  
Director of Clinical Services Division  
Ministry of Health  
Asmara, Eritrea

and

Dr. Beyene Tewelde  
Director of Halibet Hospital  
Asmara, Eritrea

and

Dr. Haile Mehtsun  
Director  
Military Referral Hospital  
Glas, Eritrea

Dear Colleagues

On the occasion of the 13 th Meeting of the Eritrean Medical Association on December 16 th held at the Intercontinental Hotel at Asmara I was once more overwhelmed by the outstanding interest which medical topics find among the different groups of people in Eritrea. H.E. Mr. Saleh Meko, Minister of Health, gave a remarkable speech concerning the interest and endurance which one should have in order to fulfil duties in the field of medicine towards the people of Eritrea.

A few days after this meeting I left Eritrea back home having served to Halibet Hospital and Glas Military Hospital for nearly 5 weeks. Due to my former experiences in East Africa I could start with orthopedics and traumatology from the first day on. Dr. Semmere Teclegiorgis and his colleague Dr. Salomon were great helps at Halibet. At Glas Military Hospital I got all necessary support from Dr. Haile Mehtsun and Dr. Mogos. The following operations were done by myself or were assisted to one of the two Eritrean doctors.

List of Operations performed at Halibet Hospital and Glas Hospital from 20/11/2006 until 21/12/2006.

## **Halibet, Asmara**

### Spine

Anterior reduction and fusion of C5/C6 dislocation 1

### Upper Extremity

Non union of Humerus, plating and grafting 1

Fracture Humerus, open reduction int. Fix. 1

Colles Fracture Radius Mini Fixator 1

Fracture Radius Head , Resection 1

Forearm Fracture, plating radius and plating ulna 1

Exostosis removal Elbow 1

Elbow Dislocation Open reduction 1

Amputation forearm 1

Radial Nerve Palsy, combined tendon transfer 2

Skin graft forearm 1

### Lower Extremity

Proximal Fracture of Femur Plating 4

Neck fracture, FHN Girdlestone 1

Femurshaft Fracture Nailing, Plating (wave plate) 2

Osteitis Femur with sequester formation 2

Dist. Femurfracture, Plating 1

Osteochondrom removal femur 1

Varus Deformity Femur, Corective Osteotomy 1

Osteitis Tibia with sequester formation child 1

Non union pantalar arthrodesis foot, grafting 2

Tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis 2

Cancellous bone grafting (harvesting) 3

## **OPD**

Beside surgical treatment a number of 50 patients were examined and possible diagnosis was established at Halibet Hospital.

## **Military Hospital Glas**

### Spine

Manipulation lumbar spine (LBP) under GA,  
plaster jacket 5

### Upper Extremity

Ant. Shoulder dislocation, anterior stabilisation 1

Posterior Shoulder dislocation, posterior stabilisation 1

Shoulder arthrodesis (Flail joint, palsy) 1

Exam. Shoulder under GA	1
Tricepstransfer on biceps (upper plexus palsy)	1
Fix. Ex. Radius (comminuted fracture, gunshot)	1
Fusion elbow joint	1
Int. fixation metacarpale	1
Mobilisation finger, skin grafting	1
Mobilisation Hand under GA	1

#### Lower Extremity

Successful Removal of bullet pelvis (7 <sup>th</sup> attempt)	1
Neurolysis N. ischidaicus (Sciatic nerve)	1
Osteochondroma/Chondrosarcoma femur	1
Osteochondrom tibia	1
Sequestrotomy femur	1
Arthrotomy knee	5
Synovectomy and bullet removal knee	1
Skin graft ankle joint	1
Arthrodesis ankle joint	1
Open reduction, int. fixation fibula (ankle fract.)	1
Tendon transfer foot (neurogenic clubfoot)	1
Bullet removal foot	1
Cancellous bone harvesting	4

#### **OPD**

Beside surgical treatment a number of 100 patients were examined and possible diagnosis established to them at Glas.

#### **Future of Orthopedics and Traumatology in Eritrea**

By occasion of several meetings with authorities of the Eritrean Medical Society, Hospitals and Ministry different aspects how to improve hospital care and maintenance were discussed. One of the predominant questions is connected with the number of Eritrean doctors who are presently assigned to the Orthopedic and Trauma Services at various hospitals. In fact my personal impression is, that there is a serious lack of Surgeons who are experienced in the fields of Orthopedics and Traumatology. By all means, it should be attempted to attract those young doctors from the University of Asmara to specialize in Orthopedics and Traumatology who are going to finish their studies in 2009.

For the improvement of Halibet Hospital, I myself inform the AO-Switzerland for any kind of support which could be offered by this world wide active Swiss organisation. This in particular should be a great chance for the AO at the time when the new build Halibet Hospital will provide a broad spectrum of musculo-skeletal surgery to those who are suffering from injuries and diseases and are not optimal managed at the time being.

Also I encourage institutions to offer equipment from the operating theatre as substantial support for Halibet and Glas – Hospitals.

I once more thank the AO and all Eritrean medical doctors and authorities who were substantially supporting my mission to Eritrea. Personally I wish my friends a happy and successful New Year 2007.

Prof. Dr. Peter Engelhardt  
Senior Chief of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery  
Approval in Germany and Switzerland

Cc Prof. Dr. Roland Jakob, Fribourg