

## **Report of reversed fellowship in Eritrea, 29.6.-23.7.2005**

### **Caroline Lottenbach**

My duty and responsibilities in Halibet Hospital was to help the OR staff, especially to afford an order concerning the instruments and implants and to motivate the OR staff and on the other hand to transmit them directives in the OR and operations.

Before I went to Eritrea I had the possibility to speak with Dr. Spycher about the essential problems in the OR. So I had an idea with what kind of problems I would be affronted with.

As I entered the first time in the OR it gave me the creeps. The changing cubicle was dirty and orderless. I waited every morning ten minutes to get my OR clothes. The OR shoes weren't washed after utilisation. When I reached the OR at about 8 clock it tooked about 1 1/2 hours up to two hours to start with the operation.

The hand disinfection is done with a curd soap and there isn't any disinfection solution. The sterile apron dress were very thin and full of holes, usually to short und it wasn't possible to close them in the back.

The instruments were feeded in a metallic case which was sterilised in a steamer. There was no security if after the sterilisation the instruments were sterile or not because they hadn't any indicators. The instruments were left during the whole day on sterile table in the metallic cases and take out the instruments if needed with a forceps.

Also the instruments are treated in a special way. First they put them in bowl with chlorine, then in a bath with OMO and at least they put them in water. At the end they clean up the instruments by hand.

We also reorganised the OR to get more place for the the tables during the operation.

I explained them also how they have to stand to the operation table to leave the sterile zone sterile and how to handle the implants and instruments during the operation.

My real work finally was to range the implants in the boards during 2 weeks because there wasn't any order. They were ranged without any logic in the boards. All instruments and implants were distributed in different boards. Because of the great number of instruments it was difficult to get an overlook. I had to realize that they have a lot of instruments and implants but they sometimes didn't know of there existence or were they are. I didn't felt any appreciation for the instruments or implants.

The head nurse worked well with me at the beginning and she also organised additional board to range the instruments and implants. I ordered the the implants in the boards and putted them on the slate (anschreiben?). At the end I wanted to explain to the whole staff how I did and how they have to replace the the implants which were used in the boards but the interest was not overwhelming.

In Glas the motivation of the staff is very good. Their main problem actually is that they had to replace older persons by new ones which don't have a lot of experiences in the OR. So I had to explain them mainly basics f.e. how to range the instruments on the table, how to give correctly the instruments to the surgeon. On the other hand they had a very good organisation in the OR and the instruments and implants were clearly ordered in the boards.

### **Summary**

The reversed fellow ship is especially in Eritrea a usefull way to support the OR staff. Especially in Halibet Hospital a continuation of the this fellow ship by nurses is essential to allow that step by step the modifications are supported supervised on place. That they learn to establish clear structures in the OR itself and also in the human resources management.