



A project of Kind Cuts for Kids,
supported by

University Clinical Center of Kosovo;
Oceania University of Medicine;
Kosovo College of Surgeons



Professor Paddy Dewan

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Introduction

Since 2011, Kind Cuts for kids has undertaken 30 country visits to the Balkans, including Macedonia, of which 13 have been to Kosovo.

On this occasion the visit not only included providing surgical care for complex cases, but also involved participation, as a guest speaker, at the Kosovo College of surgeons, at which Professor Dewan was awarded an honorary membership of the Kosovo College.

As mentioned in previous reports, the involvement in the region was stimulated by a recognition that patients being transferred to Australia could be cared for in the Balkans, and that surgery occurring in the country of origin will help empower Balkan Paediatric Surgeons, while giving world's best practice care for the children. Why so many years? Unfortunately, the challenges are great, the duration of the visits brief, and the much-needed resource and system changes have been slow. A continuing theme for this visit, and the earlier one in June 2022, was the unfortunate perspective, namely, the need to remediate poor outcomes that have arisen from patients having substandard care after seeking treatment outside Kosovo.

Clinical care

During the one-week clinical visit, 30 patients were treated, of which 17 underwent an anaesthetic for a total of 34 operations – some of the cases were those not able to receive their treatment in June because of the backlog, with the number of Kosovo patients totalling 306 for the 12 years the visits have occurred. And the total number of operations for 2022 is 105 during 52 anaesthetics. With the following list of operations adding to the 71, in June:

Cystoscopy	– 3
Examination under anaesthetic	– 2
Hypospadias related	– 14
Laparoscopy	– 1
Laparotomy	– 1
Inguinal herniotomy	– 1
Gonadectomy	– 1
Ureteric reimplant	– 2
Female genitoplasty	– 1
Other	– 2
Pena related	– 3



Theatre nursing staff organise the donations that were not used as part of the visit, but that will be invaluable in the coming weeks for the Kosovo surgeons.

Case Study

One of the important cases for both the June and September visit was a girl who had a genitoplasty on this occasion.

The initial consultation was in June of a girl who presented as follows - The Kosovo team presented an 11-year-old child with a previous diagnosis of Turner's syndrome, and a very enlarged clitoris. Turner's syndrome is usually caused by loss of all or part of one X chromosome, but there can be a number of chromosomal anomaly variations, including incorporation of Y chromosome material.

The patient had been raised a girl and wished to have her penis-like phallus changed to a clitoris. So, for further evaluation had an intra-abdominal inspection with a laparoscope that showed an abnormal "streak" gonad on the right, a right uterine horn and what seemed to be an ovotestis, with no left uterine horn, exploration of the left groin repaired a hernia and enabled tissue to be retrieved for pathology; to be evaluated in collaboration with the endocrinology team.

As anticipated, because the left gonad was an ovotestis, it was removed during this visit – via a groin incision, and the patient-desired phalloplasty was performed, resulting in this girl having normal perineal anatomy, rather than the penis like structure she was born with. A person who was born a girl has had the one part of her that was not female converted to the appropriate anatomy.

The images show (left) the normal cervix on the study performed to investigate the internal anatomy, the image on the right shows the probable ovotestis at exploration, which also involved the repair of an inguinal hernia.



Collaboration with Oceania University of Medicine



Student from OUM are able to undertake clinical rotations outside their country of origin. Natalie Burkhart was awarded a scholarship by KCFK to participate as a team member, contributing to the success of the visit and her own medical education. The photo shows the work Natalie did, rather than her photo; documenting the patients photographically and entering the data was some of the work that was performed with great enthusiasm.

Kosovo College of Surgeons and Endoscopic Meeting

The principal reason for the second visit to Kosovo in 2022 was to participate in the Second meeting of the newly formed Kosovo College of surgeons, during which Professor Dewan gave two invited lectures, namely **“Complex Paediatric Urology”** and **“Rescue Anorectal Anomaly Surgery”** and contributed to the discussion on other Paediatric Surgical related papers. And, the Kosovo College of Surgeons honoured the work of Kind Cuts for Kids with the awarding of an honorary fellowship of their College to Professor Dewan. The images show the Kosovo President opening the conference, The College President introducing Professor Dewan and Professor Dewan being congratulated after the conferring of his Fellowship. The lower picture is of the dinner hosted by the Paediatric Surgeons for the European Endoscopic Surgery meeting, which included an international guest list.



The Pictures Tell the Story – The Work



The Pictures Tell the Story – The Patients

