

CoRSU Plastic Surgery Update No.18 Sept 2008



Anaesthesia in Plastic Surgery

Without the incredible skill and dedication of our anaesthetic team we would not be able to tackle many of the patients that we operate on. I have never worked with a better team of anaesthetists. This was brought home to me last week when we tried to remove a huge collection of blood vessels from a child's face. As the child's blood rapidly drained onto the table the anaesthetists monitored her and kept her alive with their interventions.



Our cleft lip and palate babies are smaller, younger and more malnourished than those operated in developed countries with more sophisticated equipment and yet we have never had an anaesthetic incident with them. This is totally down to the skill and vigilance of our anaesthetists. We have been made more aware of this during our travels around Uganda where we have heard of many incidents of children dying under anaesthesia – many parents refuse to bring their children because they know of this risk.



Our anaesthetists are upgrading their equipment thanks to the generosity of companies who have donated excellent monitors. However they have also learnt to manage with very simple kit as we travel around the country to units where there are no resources.

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