

# newsletter

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## Patient compliance

## Do you follow doctor's orders?

In March 2014, I had the privilege to attend a workshop on *Patient Compliance*, organised by Vision 2020, the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness—a joint programme of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.



It is widely known that quality health service outcomes depend on patient's compliance to doctor's advice and the treatment regimen. But, how many patients actually comply?

#### An eye-opening statistic

Research during the last few decades shows that 4 out of 10 patients fail to adhere to treatment regimens. Compliance rates drop even further for conditions requiring patients to adhere to complex preventive or treatment regimens and/or make lifestyle changes. Then, as many as 7 out of 10 patients can fail to comply.

Non compliance is risky for patients. Which brings up the question—what can you do as a patient to lessen the chances of harming yourself due to misunderstanding or forgetting your doctor's advice?

Among the biggest barriers to patient compliance, from the patient's side are lack of awareness about health issues, low health literacy levels and lack of faith in the caregiver.

One large study of 2500 patients found that a third of these had marginal or inadequate literacy levels. Of these:

42% misunderstood directives for taking the medicine on an empty stomach

25% misunderstood the scheduling of their next appointment, and

60% were unable to read and understand a typical informed consent document.

Also, older patients were found to face significantly more challenges than younger patients.

If you suffer from a health condition that

needs to be managed, it makes sense to read about it, ask your caregiver, and if possible, share your experience and challenges faced with others coping with the same disease.

#### Doctors, listen up

A huge responsibility lies on doctors to communicate clearly with their patients. Patients more easily repose their confidence in physicians who tell them all they need to know, in a language they are familiar

with and who involve them in their plan of

Physicians who show compassion for their patients succeed in fostering better patient cooperation and adherence to preventative and treatment recommendations.

Paying attention to service quality and implementing best practices can also help elicit patient compliance. Consider sending patients SMS alerts reminding them about their follow up visits. Offer prompt services—long queues are a big put-off. Patients will look elsewhere, or worse, nowhere, if they are permanently put off doctors. Establish a help line to clarify patient doubts. And always be responsive to patient's needs.

Internet access is increasing patient awareness and in turn, making patient's more opinionated out how they want their illness to be managed. Informed patients, albeit a small class, adhere religiously (pun intended) to the adage "nothing about me without me." And this is compelling physicians to pay attention. There is no replacement for respecting patient's preferences.

Some doctors find that reviewing chronically ill patients in group settings can increase compliance rates. Such interactions give patients the opportunity to hear from others managing similar conditions. Often, patients feel better for having shared their problems with someone who understands. And who would understand better than another who is in the same boat—except perhaps, a doctor?

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## In memorium

Gynaecologist and founder of the Village Outreach Programme, Dr Vinay Laxmi left us on March 9, 2013. A year on, we pay homage to her spirit of service. The programme continues unabated. Thank you for your sustained interest in the service.

## Did you know?

Indian donors can deduct 100% of their donation to Global Hospital & Research Centre from their income for the purpose of computing taxable income. All you need to do is state your PAN and address when making a donation and ask for a Income Tax Act section 35AC receipt. Keen to donate? Email ghrcabu@gmail.com for more details.

#### New staff

In January 2014, Dr Daljeet Singh Ranawat, MD Psychiatry, joined the Department of Psychiatry as registrar—Neuropsychiatry. A warm welcome to him!

#### **Super-specialist services**

Mumbai based pulmonologist Dr Shekhar Kadam proffered advice to 75 patients on March 14. Pharmaceutical company Cipla provided a spirometry to assist the diagnosis of cases, 45 patients underwent checks.

Dr Kamteshwari, dean & head, Periodentistry Department, Aurobindo Dental College, Indore, performed 12 procedures during a visit between March 12 and 16.

Cardiac surgeon Dr Surya from Mittal Hospital, Ajmer, saw five patients during a visit in January. Six patients consulted cardiologist Dr Jijibhoy Patel from USA on March 3. Cardiologist Dr Vinit Sankhla from Care Institute of Medical Sciences, Ahmedabad, saw 42 patients on March 29 and performed 28 2D Echo investigations.

January to March saw BSES MG Hospital orthopaedic surgeon & medical superintendent Dr Narayan Khandelwal perform 11 joint replacement surgeries, assisted by Dr Murlidhar Sharma, registrar, Orthopaedics & Emergency.

Three cancer patients were operated on by honorary medical director and cancer surgeon Dr Ashok Mehta, jointly with a team of hospital surgeons, including ENT surgeon Dr Sharad Mehta, registrar—ENT Dr Keyur Mevada, laparoscopic surgeon Dr Somendra M Sharma, and Dr Mehta's assistant, maxillofacial surgeon from BSES MG Hospital Dr Ritika Agarwal.

A visiting neurologist from New Delhi saw 11 patients during the last quarter of the fiscal.

#### **Continuing Medical Education**

On December 28, Dr Mahendra Singh, (DM Endocrinology), from Jodhpur, delivered a talk on *Resurgence of pioglitazone* & recent concepts in diabetes management.

Dr Roberto D Vitale, general practitioner from Argentina, made a presentation on *Industrial food's relationship with auto immunity & inflammatory disease.* 

#### Staff conference & CME participation

Speech therapist Prakash Bhardwaj and plastic surgeon Dr A Gopalakrishna attended the Smile Train India workshop on *Speech therapy for children with cleft palate* held in New Delhi between January 17 and 19. They also attended Indocleftcon 2014, 13th annual conference of Indian Society of Cleft Lip, Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies from February 14 to 16 at Lucknow.

Radiologist Dr Nipa Hathila attended IRIA 2014, the 67th annual conference of the Indian Radiological & Imaging Association from January 23 to 26 at Agra.

Dental surgeons Dr E Archana and Dr Rajbir Kaur and senior dental surgeon Dr Niranjan Upadhyaya attended the 67th Indian Dental Conference organised by Indian Dental Association from February 21 to 23 in Hyderabad. On February 28 and March 1, pathologist Dr Divyesh



Goswami participated in an international CME on pathology, histopathology & cytopathology organised by the Indian Academy of Cytologists, Goa Chapter with the support of the European Federation of Cytology Societies and the International Academy of Cytology.

On February 15, Shrinidhi K, assistant manager, Resource Mobilisation & Partner Development, attended a training course on presenting organisational strategy to corporates. iVolunteer organised this for NGO's in Mumbai.

Nursing supervisors Smita Prajapati and Deena Mackwan attended the 2nd Criticare Nursing Conference 2014 and a two-day workshop, organised by the Critical Care Nurses Society in collaboration with Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine in Jaipur between February 16 and 18.

#### **New assets**

A biofeedback machine was procured from MedicAid Systems for the Department of Neuropsychiatry. A centrifuge and an incubator were procured for the Pathology Department, and a power supply stabiliser for the Electrical Department at Radha Mohan Mehrotra Global Hospital Trauma Centre. An I stat analyser was procured from Sandor Medicaids for the trauma centre's ICU.

### Spanish visitors

During February 2014, the hospital was delighted to host Joaquín Tamames, José Luis Capita, Jorge González, Javier León and Koldo Aldai, the founder and volunteers of Fundacion Ananta, a Spanish charity. Fundacion Ananta has taken up the cause of Global Hospital in earnest, and is helping to garner funds for its various projects.

#### Dialysis patients project

On February 1, the hospital launched a new initiative for patients needing dialysis. The *Dialysis Patients Project* offers dialysis care to individuals from economically less privileged families. Beneficiaries are treated for no charges or at subsidised rates. It includes the cost of hospitalisation as well as dialysis reagents and medication, as applicable. The *Dialysis Patients Project* aims to ensure that patients of kidney (renal) failure from less economically privileged backgrounds do not suffer for want of dialysis. Now that financial support is forthcoming, some needy patients are being advised to undergo extra dialysis sittings. Sujata Rathi, dietician & fitness advisor, has taken responsibility for garnering funds for this project.

#### Safe motherhood programme

On March 12, J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre received accreditation under Janani Suraksha Yojana, a safe motherhood programme under the National Rural Health Mission which aims at reducing the rate of maternal and neonatal mortalities by promoting institutional (hospital) deliveries among poor pregnant women. Janani Suraksha Yojana integrates cash assistance with antenatal, intranatal and postnatal care.

## My Mumbai, Diabetes Free Mumbai

On February 9, Mumbai's Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana Club organised a one day awareness-cum-prevention programme on diabetes. Called *My Mumbai*, *Diabetes Free Mumbai*, the event conducted by diabetologist Dr Shrimant Sahu benefited over 350 people.

Also, many of the attendees underwent diabetic health checks. Club president Anil Mahesh, vice president Mohan Jain, trustee Rahul Joshi, chairman of the Health Club Pavankumar Saraf, and trustee of Global Hospital and director of Rajyoga Centre, Vile Parle, Rajyogini Yogini, inaugrated the programme.

Dr Sahu explained how a healthy stress-free lifestyle can help manage diabetes. He also explained how Rajyoga meditation can help individuals strike an optimum work-home life balance.



Dr Sahu (extreme right), BK Yogini (centre) during the programme



Lee Jellis, a teacher in the East Bentleigh Primary School in Melbourne, Australia, helped raise funds for the renovation of the Government Primary School in Machgaon, Mt Abu. Lee encouraged her students to raise funds, and even approach the Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central for a matching grant. Head-mistress Anita Jain wrote Lee a letter of appreciation, which was presented to her during her first visit to Mt Abu after the school renovation.

## nursing corner



## **Scholarships** for nursing students

Fundacion Ananta, a Spanish charity with the motto *One World, One Humanity*, is taking an active interest in promoting the work of the hospital. In January 2014, the foundation pledged to sponsor scholarships for nursing students. When they come into effect during the new academic year, these merit based scholarships are expected to motivate students to perform better.

## Lamp lighting ceremony

The lamp lighting ceremony of the third batch of nursing students of Saroj Lalji Mehrotra Global Nursing College (SLMGNC) logged a strong attendance. On February 8, hospital staff, old students and parents numbering close to 250 watched the principal professor Geetha Venugopal and lecturer Dipti Parashar light the lamp for students. Professor Venugopal also led the Florence Nightingale oath. Dr Susil Parmar, CMHO, Sirohi, managing trustee BK Nirwair and director Dr Partap Midha bless and motivate the new entrants.

Dr Parmar hailed the college as an outstanding member of the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences for offering a combination of qualified faculty and a spiritual learning atmosphere. Students put up a few cultural items to entertain the attendees, which were much appreciated.

## Training of trainers workshop

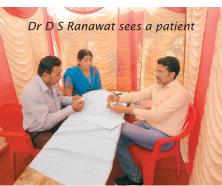
SLMGNC principal Professor Geetha Venugopal, lecturer Chris Thomas and clinical instructor Shankerlal Choudhury attended the *HIV-Training of Trainers* workshop held at Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing, Delhi, from March 3 to 8. The event was organised and sponsored by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

## **Sports** day

Students enthusiastically participated in the annual Sports Day of the SLMGNC and Global Hospital School of Nursing held between March 10 and 14. While the college students won the cricket and volleyball events, the school bagged the badminton trophy.



A team from Global Hospital participated in a mega medical consultation programme in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, held between March 5 and 8. The Rotary Club of Neemuch organises this event every year, and invites medical progressionals from across India to volunteer for the benefit of thousands of patients. Plastic surgeon Dr A Gopal Krishna, registrar in Neuropsychiatry Dr Daljit Singh Ranawat, DNB Ophthalmology trainee Dr Zeeshan Zamil and others made up the team.



## community // outreach

## Community ophthalmology

Manager of eyecare services Sandeep Singh and camp organiser Mangilal Maru organised 30 eye screening programmes during the first quarter of 2014. Twelve of these were held in district Sirohi, 11 in Jalore, 6 in Pali and one in Barmer. Of the 11346 patients who availed of screening at these venues, 441 patients from district Sirohi were identified as needing surgery, 358 patients from Jalore, 235 patients from Pali, and 22 patients from Barmer.



## **Misc**ellany

A multispeciality programme held in the Government Hospital, Sirohi, on January 23 and 24 was well attended. Senior consultant ENT surgeon Dr Sharad Mehta proferred advice to 317 patients, neuropsychiatrist Dr Nikhil Patel and registrar-Neuropsychiatry Dr Daljit Singh Ranawat saw 84 patients between them, while skin specialist Dr Kanak Srivastava was consulted by 370 patients. Consultant ophthalmologist Dr V K Sharma and DNB Ophthalmology trainees Dr Anita Bisht and Zeeshan Zamil were consulted by



Sr consultant neuropsychiatrist Dr N Patel with a patient

521 patients. Under the leadership of eyecare manager Sandeep Singh, the team of optometrists identified 50 patients needing cataract surgery.

Archana Kulkarni, deputy manager, Hospital Promotional Services, organised a screening programme for ENT, mouth and neck cancers at the Brahma Kumaris centre in Bhinmal (district lalore) on February 16. Senior consultant ENT surgeon Dr Sharad Mehta served 56 patients.

Eyecare manager Sandeep Singh organised a multispeciality consultation programme at Ambeshwar Mahadev Mandir, Sirohi, on February 2. Senior consultant ENT surgeon Dr Sharad Mehta proferred advice to 118 patients, laparoscopic surgeon Dr Somendra Sharma saw 27 patients, DNB Ophthalmology trainee Dr Zeeshan Zamil was consulted by 415 patients, gynaecologist Dr Kanaklata Mishra saw 15 patients, orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ashok Gupta proferred advice to 160 patients, dental surgeon Dr Rajbir Kaur saw 80 patients, casualty officer Dr Giriraj Sharma and volunteer Dr N S Pandit saw 115 patients between them and homeopath Dr Yogesh Mehta was

consulted by 32 patients for assistance in de-addiction.

Additionally, 200 refractions were carried out for no charge and free spectacles were distributed to 170 beneficiaries. As many as 38 cataract surgeries were performed as a result of the eye screening. Fifty five blood and urine samples were processed on site. All the patients were dispensed free medicine.

The family of Shambhulal Prasadilal Agarwal sponsored this consultation programme, in memory of Swami Rajeshwaranand Bharti ji maharaj.



Senior consultant ENT surgeon Dr S Mehta sees a patient

## Case 1: Complex surgery case

**Patient presentation:** Moda Ram Jogi alias Ashok, aged 25 years, hails from a family of rag-pickers. He is employed by a contractor, as a sweeper on daily wages. Moda Ram just about manages to make both ends meet.

On the night of March 5, Moda Ram felt a sudden pain in his abdomen and vomited a few times. Fortunately for him, his employer learned of his condition and decided to rush him to Global Hospital. The medical officer on casualty duty examined him and advised admission. But Moda Ram's friends and family, who had accompanied him to the hospital, did not take the situation seriously, and chose to take him elsewhere for treatment.

Four days later, "that" other treating doctor (strongly suspected of being a quack) raised his hands—there was nothing else he could do. Moda Ram was brought back to Global Hospital.

*Treatment:* By now, Moda Ram's condition had significantly deteriorated. In view of the criticality, he was immediately admitted and operated on. Laparoscopic surgeon Dr Somendra Sharma found a large hole in his duodenum (the part immediately following the stomach), which was pouring acid from the stomach and bile from the biliary system into his abdominal cavity, leading to a life threatening condition called peritonitis. The hole was repaired and the abdominal cavity thoroughly cleaned up to prevent further damage.

Moda Ram was kept in the Intensive Care Unit after surgery. The surgical and the intensive care team worked hard for his recovery, keeping him on oxygen support, maintaining his body electrolytes levels and taking care of his nutrition since he was unable to eat. However, as a result of his already poor nutritional status and delayed treatment, Moda Ram developed wound sepsis and intra abdominal abscesses and obstruction.

He underwent a second operation on March 25, which was followed by more intensive care. This time he recovered fast, and was discharged on April 5, exactly one month after his ordeal had started.

Moda Ram was lucky to have been saved in spite of being so negligent about his life threatening illness and delaying treatment. Since he is hard pressed for money, Global Hospital completely bore the cost of his treatment, including his prolonged stay in the ICU, high end medicines, and a battery of sophisticated investigations.

Better patient education is the need of the hour. The Department of Surgery is making it a point to explain to patients the risk to life from delaying treatment.



### Sponsor the cost of treating a patient

Contributions from well-wishers help J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre meet the cost of treating patients from socially and economically less privileged backgrounds. You can help too. Email ghrcabu@gmail.com to know more. Or, donate towards such patient treatment costs via our website www.ghrc-abu.com



## Case 2: Enucleated eye lights up second patient's life

## Patient presentation:

A 50 year old woman was attacked by a bear who extracted her eye, surprisingly with the precision of a surgeon.



**Treatment:** Ophthalmologist Dr Sudhir Singh, sutured her injuries, assuming that the eye ball was lost.

Next morning, he was in for a big surprise. The woman's son had gone in search of her cell phone. To his surprise, he found the eye lying on a tree branch. He gingerly picked up the eye and rushed it over to the hospital.

After the eye was cleaned, it looked very normal. It had been

drizzling—the moisture and the cold air had helped preserve the eye, much like a moisture chamber.



Naturally, the patient's family wanted the eye

restored to her. But that could not be because an entire eyeball cannot be transplanted. Only a cornea can be transplanted. Then the family asked whether the eye or a part of it could benefit someone else. Dr Singh explained this would be possible, and amazingly, it would be the first time in his knowledge that any living person has donated his or her eye. Since no in-house case was pending, the eye was sent to the nearest eye bank, where the tissue was utilised.

The patient's left eye has since healed and she is coping well, fortunately her right eye has good vision. A cosmetic prosthesis has been fitted in the left eye. This unique story has helped garner a lot of tissue donation awareness.

## obovitass ...

Dr Mark Walters, USA

Gynaecology & Obstetrics

Gynaecologist & obstetrician Dr Saurbhi Singh did her post graduation in gynaecology & obstetrics from King George Medical College Lucknow in 2002. She joined J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre a year later. At the time, the Department of Gynaecology & Obstetrics was in a nascent stage. Only minor procedures were being performed. Dr Singh single-handedly expanded the scope of the department.

A more recent addition is non descent vaginal hysterectomies, which involve the removal of a uterus which has not prolapsed through natural orifices, and hence avoids any abdominal incision and scar. Patients recover faster after this kind of hysterectomy as compared to conventional laparoscopic or abdominal removal of the uterus. The operation (*reference cases 3 and 4 below*) is performed under spinal anaesthesia. Dr Singh learned this technique from Dr Mark Walters, a renowned urogynaecologist practicing in Cleveland Clinic, USA, during a visit to Mt Abu in 2010.



Sister Mangala, OT nursing supervisor

## THE KIND OF WORK WE DO...



Dr Singh holds a huge fibroid uterus (weighing 4kg) re-moved abdominally Multiple
fibroids
removed
through the
vagina in a
virgin
(usually
considered
challenging
because the
vagina lacks
laxity)



Bilateral ovarian cyst with uterus removed vaginally



Or Saurbhi Singhi

Dizygotic twins, non identical twins delivered by C-section

## Services we offer...

## Gynaecology

- · Non descent vaginal hysterectomy
- Abdominal hysterectomy
- · Removal of ovarian tumours & cysts
- · Vaginal prolapse operations
- PAP smears and biopsy
- · Menopause clinic

#### **Obstetrics**

- Simple and complicated deliveries
- · Caesarean sections
- · High risk pregnancy management
- · Antenatal Clinic
- · Infertility Clinic
- · Advice on contraception
- · Processing of forms of Janani Suraksha Yojana patients (safe motherhood programme)

## Workshop: Rational Use of Blood



On March 22 and 23, Rotary International Global Hospital Blood Bank hosted a two-day state level workshop on the topic, *Rational use of blood*. Held in the Brahma Kumaris Shantivan complex, Abu Road, this event was co-organised by the Rajasthan State Blood Transfusion Council and Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society (RSACS). About 110 medical officers and doctors from across the state attended this event.

During the inaugural session, Dr S S Chauhan, Project Director, RSACS, stressed the importance of providing safe blood, a responsibility upheld in the National Blood Policy. He shared an interesting statistic with the audience—India collects only 315,085 units of blood from voluntary blood donors. Voluntary blood donations are safer than professional blood donations. Rajasthan has 89 blood banks, of which 44 are run by the state government and 4 banks are operated by the central government.

BK Nirwair, managing trustee, Global Hospital Research Centre, emphasised the need to consult doctors prior to using blood, to avoid post transfusion complications.

Dr Yogini Patel, Director, Education & Research & Laboratory Services, BSES MG Hospital, Mumbai, elucidated the use of blood in transfusion medicine. No matter how stressful the situation, how grave the emergency, how large the volume of blood that is required, there is a need to ensure blood safety.

## branch scorecard

### **Update:** Baroda Clinic

On March 2, the Brigadier Vora Clinic & Jyoti Bindu Diagnostic Centre, Baroda, arranged a free eye diagnosis and treatment programme. A tie-up with Jyoti Optician enabled 103 individuals to get their eyes tested and/or buy spectacles at affordable prices. A big thanks to Dr Pradipbhai Sheth, Dr Ketanbhai Patel and Dr Reenaben Patel for offering their voluntary services. The team identified 93 cases of conjunctivitis, 45 cases of blepharitis, four night blindness cases, three pterygium cases and 45 cases of refractive errors. And, 23 people needing cataract surgery were referred to local charitable hospitals.

### Celebrating World Glaucoma Day

Global Hospital Institute of Ophthalmology organised a public awareness drive to celebrate World Glaucoma Week from March 9 to 15. *Beat Invisible Glaucoma*, this year's theme, aptly highlights the "silent" nature of glaucoma, a major cause

## Eye academics

Senior consultant ophthalmologists Dr V K Sharma and Dr Sudhir Singh, and paediatric ophthalmologist Dr Amit Mohan attended the annual conference of the All India Ophthalmic Society (AIOS), held at Agra between February 6 and 9.

A paper authored by Dr Sudhir Singh, First post operative day visual outcome following 6mm Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS) using intratunnel phacofracture technique, was published in the Rajasthan Journal of Ophthalmology 2014. Dr Sudhir Singh presented an e-poster on the same topic at the AIOS 2014.

Another article by Dr Sudhir Singh, *IOL Implantation after Posterior Capsular Rupture* has been published in Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today Europe (April 2014 issue). And, an article about a case of Dr Sudhir Singh's, *The bear facts: Enucleated eye survives on a tree branch*, has been published in Eye World International (March 2014 issue).

A paper authored by Dr Amit Mohan, Surgical outcome of incomitant exotropia in patients with partial third nerve palsy, was published in the Rajasthan Journal of Ophthalmology 2014.

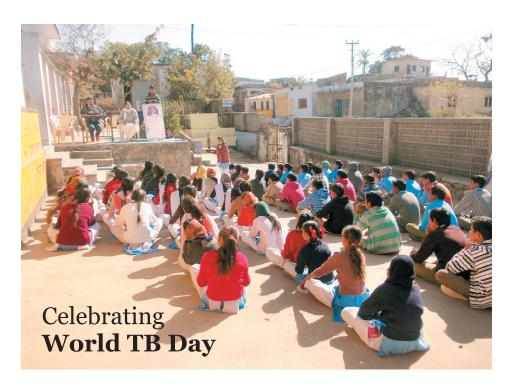
Director Dr Partap Midha and eyecare manager Dinesh Singh attended a workshop on Patients' Compliance. *Vision 2020 Right to Sight*, India, organised this event at New Delhi on March 8 and 9.

of permanent blindness. Posters on glaucoma were put up at prominent places in the hospital.

On March 14, paediatric ophthalmologist Dr Amit Mohan and DNB Ophthalmology trainee Dr Anita Bisht participated in an awareness talk on glaucoma on the community radio station Radio Maduban 90.4FM. The duo spoke about the symptoms of the disease, its diagnosis, preventive measures and available treatment. Dr Mohan emphasised the need for annual eye checks for the early diagnosis of glaucoma and timely intervention. RJ Mona (alias Sharmishtha) conducted this programme.

#### Felicitations!

On the ocassion of the Hindu New Year, on March 31, *Nav Varsh Swagat Samaroh Samiti* felicitated social workers from various fields. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, technical supervisor & quality assurance co-coordinator, Blood Bank & Pathology, Radha Mohan Mehrotra Global Hospital Trauma Centre, was also felicitated by the committee.



## Hospitalised for external ear pathology

On February 24, Narsa Garasia, a boy aged three and resident of village Siawa, was hospitalised for a post traumatic keloid in the left ear. Plastic surgeon Dr A Gopalakrishna treated Narsa. He was discharged a much happier child albeit still wary of the hospital surroundings!



## Hospitalised for a stone in the bladder

Rakesh is three years old. Ramesh Garasia, his father, brought him to the hospital because the child was suffering from pain during urination. The family lives in Chandela, an adopted village.

Investigations showed that Rakesh was suffering from a stone in the bladder. Laparoscopic surgeon Dr Somendra Sharma operated on him on March 21, and he successfully recovered over a short hospital stay.



Above: Rakesh and the x-ray showing the stone

# village outreach

World Tuberculosis Day falls on March 24. This years theme "Reach the three million, A TB test, treatment and cure for all" builds on the WHO 2013 Global TB Report finding that three million people are missed every year by health systems. This has been the case for six years now.

This year, chief of the village outreach programme Dr Kanak Shrivastava addressed students of village Oriya government school, and assemblies of residents in villages Aarna, Jawaingaon and Uplagarh. She spoke about the importance of early detection for a full cure. She elucidated the tests available to detect tuberculosis and its early warning signs.

## **VOP service levels**January to March 2013

Number of patients seen by Dr Shyamla: 2800

Number of patients seen by Dr Kanak Srivastava in the villages and in camps: 791

Hospital admissions: 93

Top three VOP diseases: Respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, musculoskeletal system

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The Managing Trustee - GHRC P.O.Box 35, Mount Abu, 307501 Rajasthan INDIA

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Please mention your name, mailing address, telephone and email. For more information, email Dr Partap Midha, director, J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre at ghrcabu@gmail.com or call +91 (0) 2974 238347.