

MILLENNIUM CITY STORY: SUCCESS IN HEALTH

Kisumu, Kenya: Patients Receive Urological Treatment



Drs. Durkee, Smith and Cornfield with Bruce Cohen

OVERVIEW

With only one urologist serving all of Western Kenya's Nyanza Province, a catchment area of five to seven million people, patients with urological problems regularly go untreated. Yet in the spring of 2010, a team of three U.S.-based urologists, accompanied by F. Bruce Cohen, CFO of United Therapies and Founder of the KNOCK Foundation, used their skills to help those in need – making a lasting impact in the process.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Many urological issues are easily treated, yet developing countries often face limited resources and a lack of qualified specialists. In an effort to make treatment more affordable and accessible, this team of urologists, supported by United Therapies and the Knock Foundation, partnered with the Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI) to screen patients and provide essential care. MCI facilitated this trip in an effort to help Kisumu, Kenya, one of our Millennium Cities, and the surrounding area, further their efforts in public health.



Patients await screenings

ACTIONS TAKEN

From April 26-30, 2010, Drs. Joel Cornfield, Craig Smith, Charles T. Durkee and F. Bruce Cohen provided support to Nyanza Provincial General Hospital, the only referral hospital in Kisumu. Radio announcements promoting their visit drew nearly 100 patients from as much as five hours away. The first step involved a screening to assess each individual's needs and determine whether further care or surgery was needed. In Kisumu, patients are typically required to buy their own disposables and pay the cost of an operating room – something few can afford. But for a few days, the hospital waived operating room costs, while United Therapies donated essential medical supplies to support the surgeries.



Dr. Cornfield in a patient screening

Working closely with Kenyan surgeons, the urologists removed tumors, inserted stints and performed several prostatectomies. For those patients whose surgeries could not be scheduled, the KNOCK Foundation arranged to pay operating room costs for their treatment at another time, by local staff.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The team performed more than 20 surgeries, and helped nearly 50 patients suffering from conditions that ranged from serious to life-threatening. An unexpected gratification came with the successful removal of an 11-pound tumor from a four-year old girl.



Kenyan medical staff learns from visiting urologists

The Knock Foundation is planning another trip in 2011, which will involve additional screenings and surgeries, as well as the training of local medical professionals and school building for non-medical volunteers who decide to make the trip.



Medical supplies donated by United Therapies