COVER STORY

Another Successful Mission in Ahmedabad

Collaborating with Health & Care Foundation

By now, the Health & Care Foundation and Ahmedabad feels like home to some of us who have been going on the mission trips every year.

A group of five spine surgeons, one from the UK, three from the US, and one with a local practice in Ahmedabad came together in January 2019 to do 12 complex and successful surgeries on children with deformity ranging from 7–15 years of age. Dr. Shaishav Bhagat and a neuro-monitoring specialist Mr. Mushtaq Shaikh from the UK, had been to the Health & Care on other missions in the past. IASA recruited US members Dr. Winston Jeshuran, Dr. Dilip Sengupta, and Dr. Amit Bhandarkar to join. Dr. Amit Jhala of Ahmedabad has had an established relationship with the Health & Care Foundation and without him as the local anchor, none of the missions would have been possible. Dr. Jhala not only recruits and screens the patients ahead of time, he also continues post op check-ups on the children as needed. In addition, anesthesiologist Dr. Bharat Oza was also present for all nine surgeries at HCF.

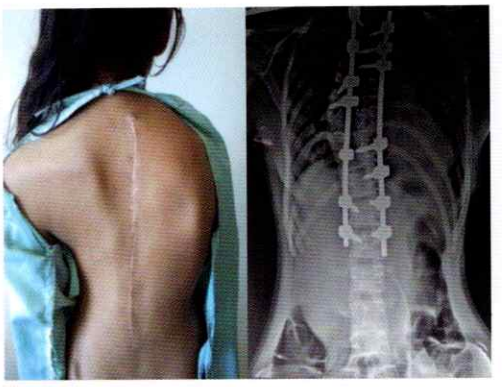
This year's mission was the most successful as we were also able to use an OR at the Civil Hospital, affiliated with BJ Medical College, where complex cases were handled. Dr. J.V. Modi, head of the Orthopedic Surgery unit, Dr. Shaishav Bhagat, from Ipswich, UK, and lead surgeon for all HCF missions, and Dr. Dilip Sengupta from Mansfield, TX, were the Civil Hospital team who handled three cases.

All patients who came for consultation were from poor families – farmers, laborers, small business owners, with monthly incomes between $115 - $280, who could not afford paying for surgeries or hospital expenses. In almost all cases the children were not born with any spine problems, and their condition only surfaced later in their lives because they were uncomfortable, could not sit, stand, or walk straight, and had mostly withdrawn from daily life and school for being laughed at because of their conditions. They were diagnosed with Scoliosis or Kypho-scoliosis. Some were new cases; some were revisions, and a few needed growth rods extensions.

At screening, the team chose the patients for surgery based on their condition, age, and whether the procedures would alter their growth. The procedures, often lasting up to 6 hours or more, were successful, and the patients were able to walk comfortably within a few days post-op.

Continue to page 6 and 7 to see pre- and post-op photos of our mission achievements.

Pre-Op



Post-Op

Afsana - 13 year old female Village of Torna, Kheda

Diagnosis
Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis with right sided thoracic curve

Procedure
Posterior correction using pedicle screws construct. Convex side correction carried out with Chevron osteotomies and facet releases around the apex of the curve.

Pre-Op

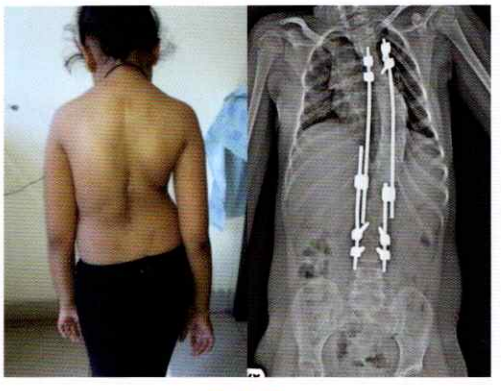
Post-Op

Dhruvisha - 11 year old female Village of Thoriyaadi, Rajkot

Diagnosis
Congenital kyphosis

Procedure
Posterior correction with pedicle substraction osteotomy and correction.

Pre-Op



Post-Op

Netra - 7 year old female Ahmedabad

Diagnosis
Infantile scoliosis undergoing regular growth rod extensions

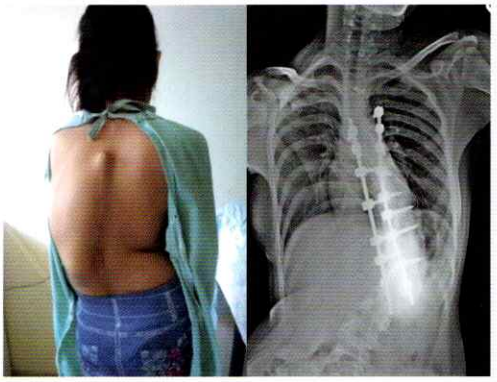
Pre-Op

Post-Op

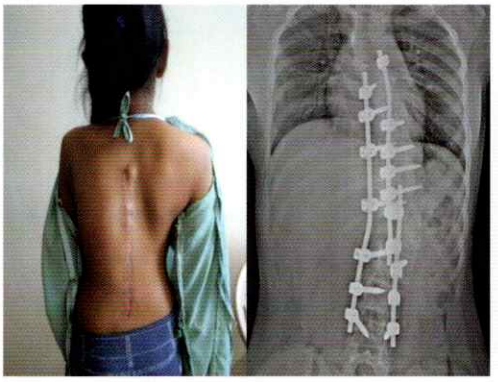
Abedabanu - 8 year old female Village of Banaskantha

Diagnosis
Congenital Scoliosis with Hemivertebrae, Previous Hemivertebrae excision approximately 2 years ago. The curve was initially well controlled but now worsening.

Procedure
Revision Hemivertebrae excision with correction.



Pre-Op



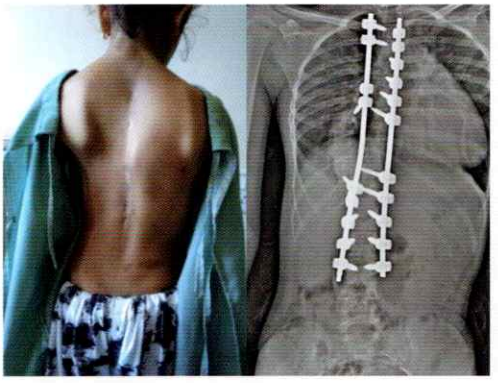
Post-Op

Shakina - 13 years old, Bhavnagar

Diagnosis
Infantile curve operated elsewhere. Implant failure with worsening of the deformity.

Procedure
Removal of previous implants, pedicle substraction osteotomy at the apex and revision correction.

Pre-Op



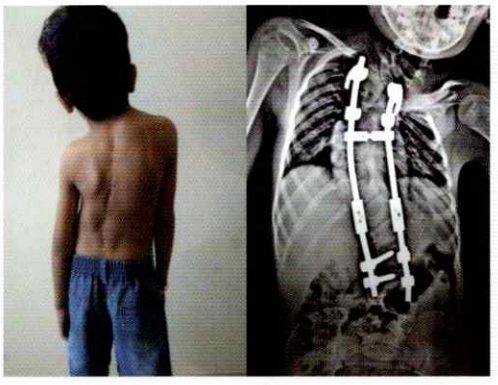
Post-Op

Fatema - 11 year old female Village of Lalpur

Diagnosis
Congenital scoliosis treated with growing rods and multiple extensions over the last four years. Presented with breakage of the rods.

Procedure
The previous implants were removed and multilevel chevron osteotomies along with asymmetrical PSO carried out with further posterior correction.

Pre-Op



Post-Op

Lekhraj - 7 year old male Village outside Ahmedabad

Diagnosis
Congenital scoliosis: growth rod extensions

Pre-Op

Post-Op

Kinjal - 15 year old female Village outside Rajkot

Diagnosis
Severe rigid congenital kypho-scoliosis with evolving weakness in legs and upper motor neuron signs

Procedure
Vertebral column resection at the apex with anterior distraction and posterior compression with cantilever maneuver. Marked difference in post-operative correction and alignment.