

Salud Juntos Winter 2011 Brigade to Punta Ocote



Wed 5 January 2011

Today kicked off with a busy start! We arrived to find patients waiting for the doors to open—the longest line so far.



The waiting area filled up early. To make the best use of our patients' time, we began distributing sunglasses from ALERT while they waited to be seen. Here a gentleman shows off his new sunglasses to a captive audience.



En route to lunch, we were happy to find these boys wearing the sunglasses they got yesterday.

Adapting to Illiteracy

Normally, to check vision we ask patients to read increasingly small letters. In our short time here, we have learned not to take literacy for granted. To meet the needs of this population, Joe Miller, MD, recommended the use of charts composed entirely of only four letters—H, O, T, and V. After brief instruction, patients are readily able to identify letters by pointing at the corresponding letter on a legend.



A patient shows that she can see the letter H on a chart at distance in front of her.

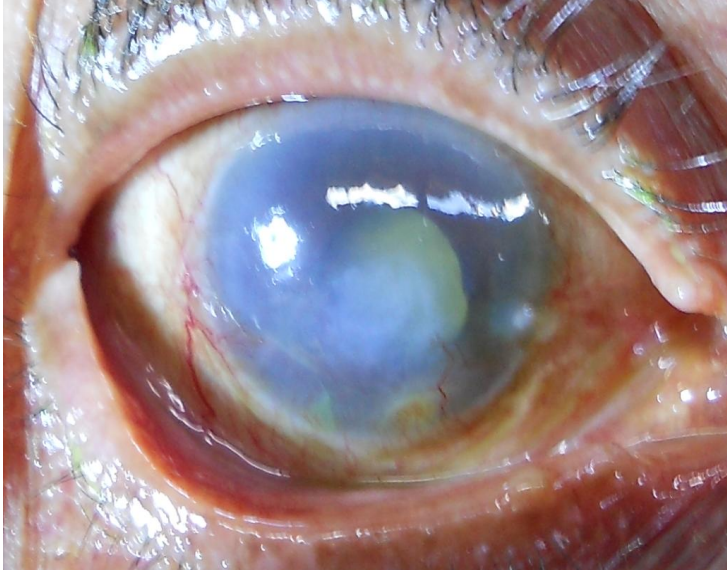


Here, she points correctly at the letter T to show that she can see at near.

In the first three days we have encountered two mute patients, for whom the HOTV system was also indispensable as the only way we could assess their vision.

Case of the Day

An 83-year-old woman with hand motion vision in her right eye had been seen elsewhere six months prior, diagnosed with glaucoma, and started on timolol and methyl-cellulose drops in both eyes which ran out three days ago.



Shown here is her right eye with a dense white cataract, shallow anterior chamber, and hazy cornea. Together with elevated pressure, this suggested decompensation from lens-induced glaucoma. The left eye had a moderate cataract with normal pressure and optic nerve.

Our question was whether the right cataract was also leaking inflammatory material. Without much-needed equipment (a slit lamp or hand-held version), it was difficult to say. The possibility of inflammation was concerning since we had given out all our glaucoma medications except for one, which happens to *aggravate* existing inflammation.

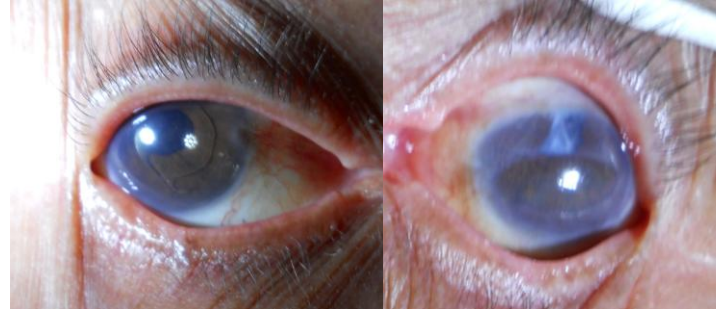
She was referred for cataract surgery and given what medication we had. Given our concern for inflammation, we elected to cover with steroid and antibiotic drops and asked to see her again on Friday morning before we leave.

Clinical Mystery of the Day



A 25-year-old mute woman with poor left eye vision was found to have a small, sunken left eye that moved irregularly and was missing its lens. Her history was difficult to obtain. We suspected that she might have dislocated her lens from birth trauma and subsequently the eye failed to grow properly. Fortunately, her right eye was normal with normal vision.

Clinical Picture of the Day



This 82 year old gentleman was the first pseudophakic patient seen this year. He had an anterior chamber intraocular lens in the right eye (right) and a secluded pupil in the left eye (left).

Bank Hit



Our van sustained damage after hitting...a bank. Fortunately, no arrests were made.

Salud Juntos Staff of the Day



Robert Mejia, age 18, is a volunteer for the eye brigade. He takes the history, performs the vision test, and distributes glasses to the patient. This is his second year volunteering at the eye brigade in Punta Ocote. Robert is a high school graduate whose dream is to study medicine and become a pediatrician, but has not been able to continue his education due to financial concerns. He has a health diploma and has volunteered in other communities as a medical assistant, taking blood pressures, giving vaccinations, and can also suture lacerations!!

Robert was born in Yoro and currently lives in Punta Ocote. He has two older sisters and four younger brothers. His father has a plantation, growing corn and beans.

Hot Spot



Matthew Feng, MD, stops for some shade and is surprised to pick up wireless internet access on his phone in Punta Ocote!

Pics of the Day



The multi-talented Thiri Pugazhendhi, MD, makes herself at home on an antique sewing machine.



This should improve my eyesight in a big way!



At least once a day, the clinic is treated to a cattle drive-by.

Chicken of the Day

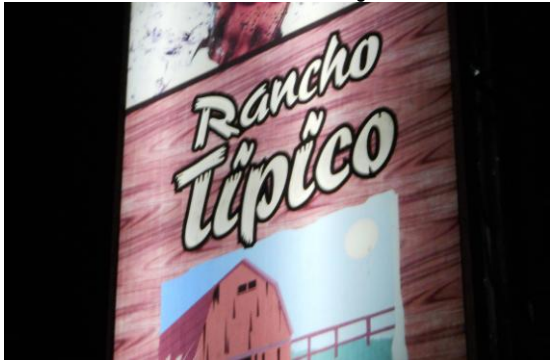


Pat on the Move



Where there's a chicken...Pat's not far behind!

Geocache of the Day



Dinner at Rancho Tipico

N 15 degrees 08.297'

W 87 degrees 07.583'

Wednesday Stats

Of the 35 patients seen, 13 (37%) were men and 22 (63%) were women.

Age	Hyperopia	Emmetropia	Myopia
<= 40 yrs	6	0	2
>40	17	0	1

Diagnoses:

- 26 REFRACTIVE ERROR
- 26 DRY EYE
- 17 ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS
- 12 CATARACT
- 9 PTERYGEA
- 3 DIABETIC WITHOUT RETINOPATHY
- 2 APHAKIA
- 2 NON-PROLIFERATIVE DIABETIC RETINOPATHY
- 1 CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT MACULAR EDEMA
- 1 PSEUDOPHAKIA (ACIOL)
- 1 SECLUDED PUPIL
- 1 NANOPHTHALMOS
- 1 LENS-INDUCED GLAUCOMA