

Salud Juntos 2010 Eye Brigade to Punta Ocote



Thursday 7 January 2010

A Busy Day



On the walk to the clinic- lo and behold! – the sun and our shadows!

First Case of the Morning –
Anisometropia



1. The word had gotten out. Here is a picture of a broadcast van; that operation had started, but it seemed more word-of-mouth.



On the way to the clinic, we found a member of the milk cooperative on the way to the collection point.



Nicolle, the child of Karina (one of our staff), was evaluated because mom thought that at times her eyes “looked funny”. Carmen took a picture of her, and used the photo of her on the back of her camera as an accommodative target, uncovering a small esotropia with right eye preference. After a great deal of squalking, the dilating drops were given.



The good news is that the squalking was worth it. Nicolle was found to be anisometric (unequal refractive error between the two eyes), with 1.5 D difference between her eyes. This amount would most likely cause amblyopia to develop, and warrants a pair of glasses. Hopefully we will be able to locate a pair for her between now and when the next Brigade comes down. – as seen on the signs we made up announcing it.



Passing it On



By mid morning, Cristina had trained Rosela in the dispensing protocol, and we were rolling. By lunchtime, we were at 32 patients- the number we had seen the day before. We opened a third refracting station with Rosela’s help.



It was a quick lunch, as we had left a patient dilating. She reported that when she was little, she became quite sick, and afterwards, her eyes began to cross and she could not see well. She had essentially no abduction in either eye (complete CN6 palsy OU) and a very unusual cataract – dense in one cortical layer, like a fetal nuclear cataract. Her fundus was normal, so there is hope that if she were to have cataract surgery her vision will improve.

The Afternoon was a Blur

The afternoon passed quite quickly, as we saw an additional 40 plus patients, including this diabetic gentleman who got the word he needed an eye exam.



Happily, despite his AK and BK amputations, he had no diabetic retinopathy. We were able to refract him to 20/20 in each eye.



A dense white cataract was found in this 64 man with history of remote trauma. He was not diabetic. His vision in the right eye was hand motion, but no view of the retina could be obtained. He did have positive Purkinje Image, and so was referred for cataract surgery.

Dinner with Ramon and Jessica



We were treated to dinner at Rancho Tipico and were joined by Ramon, Jessica, Gabriella, and Jafeth, as well as Cristina.



We were fortunate that there was a watchman and assistant keeping us safe from the neighboring zombies.

Salud Juntos Profile –



Cristina Nunez Cruz

Cristina, who was the primary refractionist on this brigade, was born in Punta Ocote and is 31 years old. She lives in Punta Ocote, and finished high school with an emphasis in computer programming. She has since worked at the Internet Café in Punta Ocote, and taught second grade.

Recently, in July 2009, she was tutored for six months by a registered nurse from San Pedro Sula and spent two months in clinical practice. She helped with the Salud Juntos brigades last June, working in aldeas around Punta on an oral hygiene program and participated in conducting the health census.



Cristina has been very proactive in this brigade, advocating for patients who needed special help, and after had trained additional refractionists by the time the brigade was completed. Whatever we accomplished was with her assistance- Thank you Cristina!

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	<40y	>= 40	Total	Hyper	Em	Myope
Male	9	17	26	11	14	1
Female	20	30	50	19	7	24

Diagnoses – to follow

48	Dry Eye Syndrome
21	Allergic Conjunctivitis
1	Glaucoma
9	Diabetics
8	Hypertension
5	Visually Significant Cataract
19	Pterygea
8	Pinguecula
2	Adult Strabismus
1	Bells Palsy
1	Trichiasis
1	Lid Lesion
1	PVD
1	Asteroid Hyalosis
1	Hordeolum

Distribution of Refractive Error

Glasses	Plus SV	Plus BF	Minus SV	Minus BF
0 to 1	8	3	2	0
1 to 2	25	1	3	1
2 to 3	16	1	2	1
3 to 4	8	1	0	0
4 Plus	0	0	0	0

Thursday was a great day- we finally had patients looking for a place to sit down.

Regards to all

Dale, Joe, Laura, Leslie, Carmen