



START-UP OF PEDIATRIC SURGICAL SERVICES IN LIBYA: First Lessons Learnt

Andreas FETTE

No disclosure to be made by the author

Libyan - German Hospital, Pediatric Surgery, Benghazi/Libya



Area: 1.775.500 km²

Population: 3.4 inhabitants/km²

1951:
**Proclamation
of State/
separation from
Italy**

1969: Kingdom

1969-2011:
Muammar al-Gaddafi
(dictator)

2011:
Revolution & Civil War
30 000 deaths

02/2011:
**National Transition
Congress**

08/2012: General National Congress

SOCIAL SYSTEM:

- one of the richest oil bearing countries
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per inhabitant 9 372 US \$
- Human Development Index (2011): 0.755 = **best developed country on African continent**
- National Council of Libya voted for the implementation of the **Sharia** (islamic law) and the **Koran** (2013)

Tripolis 1.780.000 inhabitants

Bengasi 650.629 inhabitants

Misrata 386.120 inhabitants

- **retirement fees/support** for widows, elderly, orphans, ... (divorced)

EDUCATION:

- 2005: **30 %** of the population **< 15 yrs**
- **compulsory school education** (free from 6 - 15 yrs), but **17 % illiterates**
- end of the 80s: Gaddafi dismissed all schools & teachers ?
- since 1980: mainly Arabic is understood; **foreign language lessons have been forbidden by Gaddafi ??**
- Universities are located in Tripoli, Bengasi ...
- National Budget: **2.7 %** are spent annually for the **Educational System** (1999)

HEALTH CARE:

- health care free of charge
- National Budget: 2.4 % are spent annually for Health Care (2006)
- for civil war victims Libya paid 140 Mio US \$ to Jordan in 02/2012. 15 000 have been treated
- Germany, Austria and others used the „frozen treasure“ of Gaddafi for the treatment of civil war victims abroad ...
- „Medical care in general is not comparable to Europe. Especially outside the capital city medical care is often technically, operationally and/or hygienically problematic. However, after the war in 2011 the majority of governmental hospitals and private clinics are functioning“.

FIRST CONTACT:



MedEvac Mission

LOWI - BEN



SECOND CONTACT:

after constitutional council election in summer 2012



Private Contract

GLHC - Ped Surgeon





FIRST ACTION



SECOND ACTION



THIRD ACTION



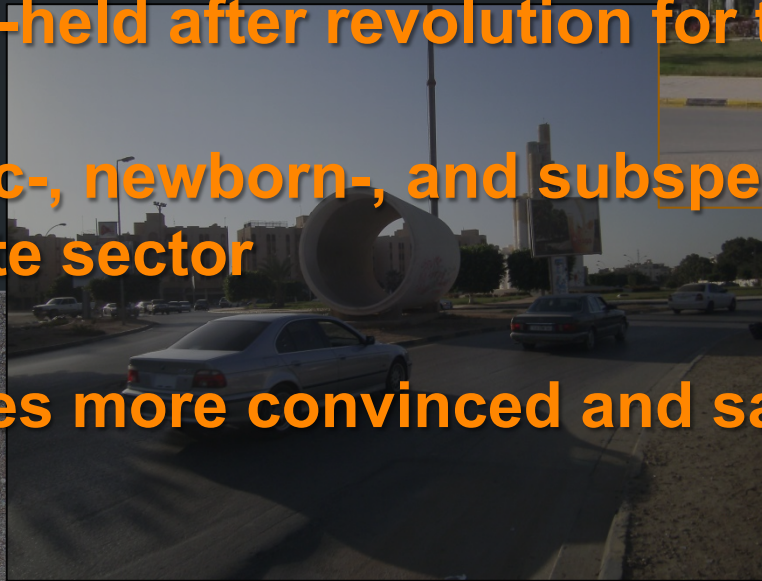
FOURTH ACTION

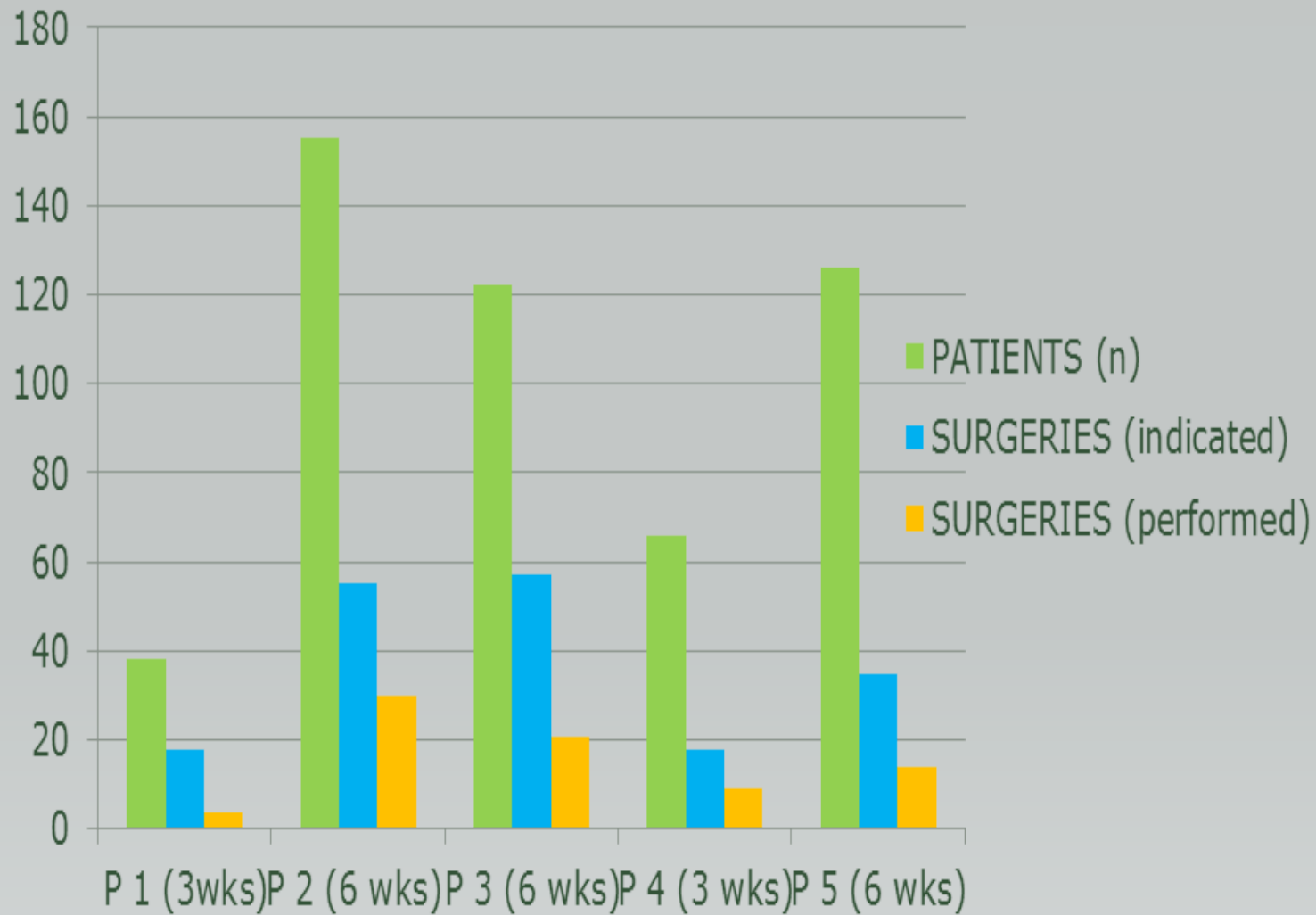


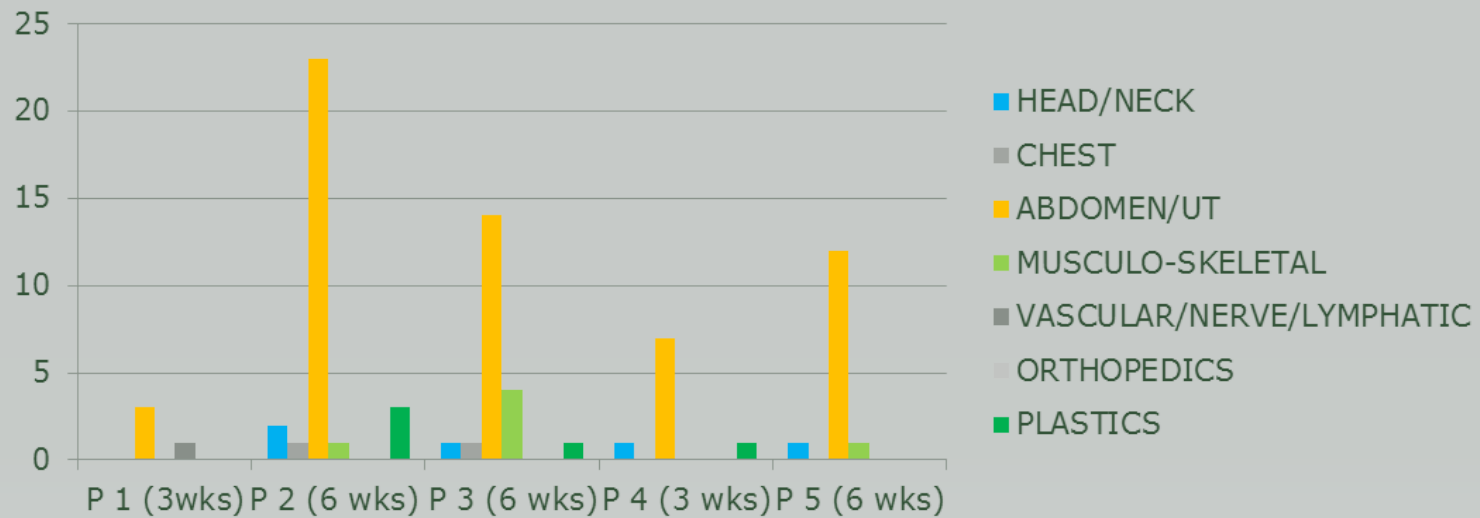
FIFTH ACTION

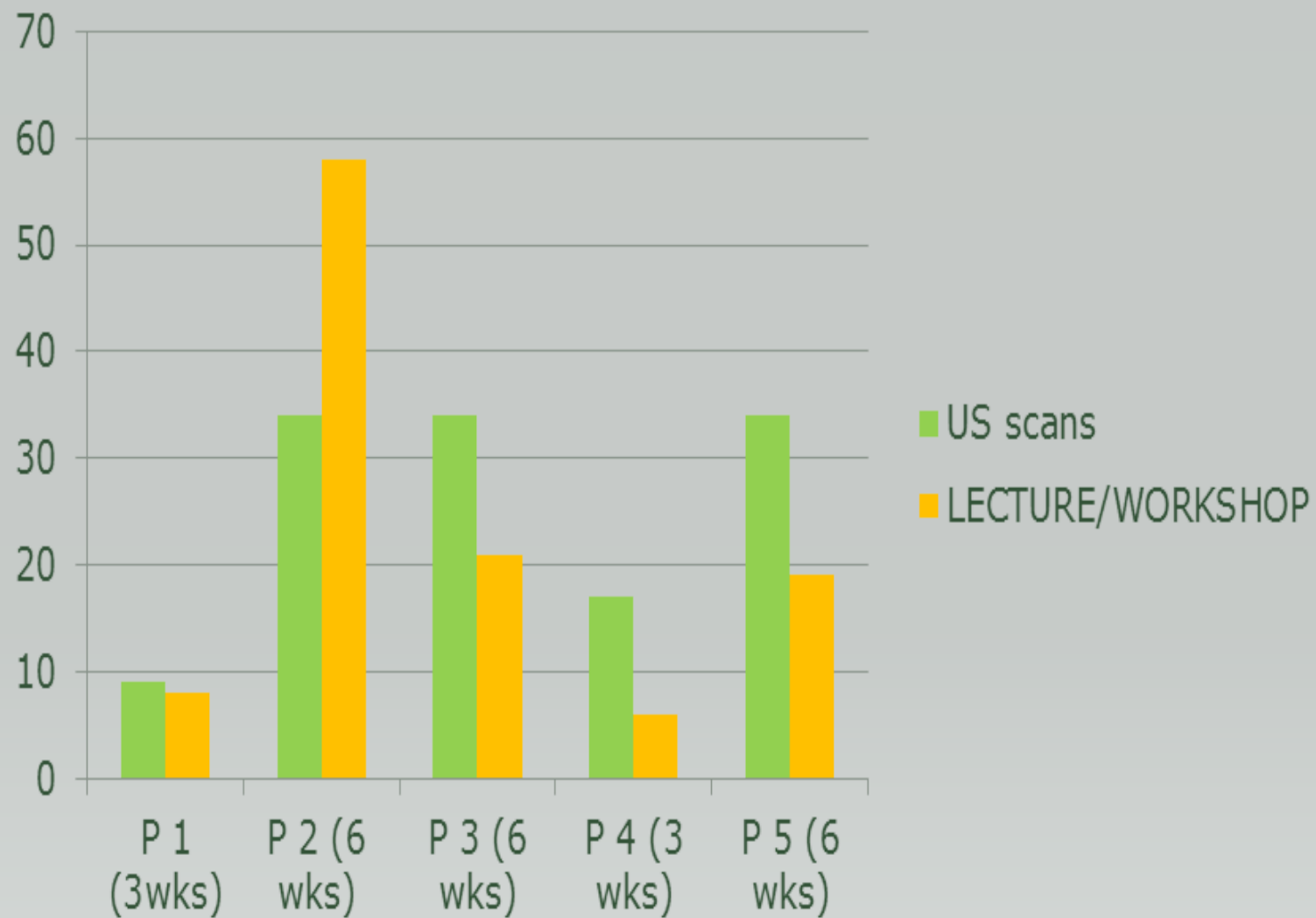
RESULTS:

- higher standards of care and staff motivation
- master exams re-held after revolution for the first time
- first laparoscopic-, newborn-, and subspecialty surgeries done in the private sector
- carers and families more convinced and satisfied about SPSS provided
- surgeries performed doubled in numbers, follow-up reached $>2/3$ of the patients









summer 2014: new elections

Ministry for Foreign Affairs:

ADVISE to LEAVE Libya immediately

ADVISE NOT to travel to Libya

C
O
N
C
L
U
S
I
O
N

„German“ expertise introduced in a culture-sensitive way allowed for the first positive changes in SPSS in Benghazi/ Libya. However, for a full sustainable implementation there is still a long way to go.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!!



**REFERENCES: Wikipedia, Reiseempfehlungen Auswärtiges Amt, National
Geographics, personal notes and data of the author**