



Congenital Hand Anomalies
FESSH Traveling Award 2013
Wilhelmstift Katholisches Kinderkrankenhaus
Hamburg-Germany
Dr. Aly Amr, MD



VISIT

Paediatric reconstructive hand surgery fellowship at WILHELMSTIFT Katholisches Kinderkrankenhaus from the 8th of January till the 28th of March 2013.

GOALS

- Visit a different hospital and participate in routine daily activities.
- Being able to detect, assess, diagnose and treat congenital malformations of the hand.
- Observe the postoperative care for congenital malformation of the hand.

WILHELMSTIFT KATHOLISCHES KINDERKRANKENHAUS

The Department of Hand and Microsurgery at the WILHELMSTIFT Katholisches Kinderkrankenhaus, Hamburg, Germany is one of the world's leading paediatric hand centres since its foundation by Prof. Buck-Gramcko in 1982. Not only famous for hand surgery training but also for the development of several techniques in treating congenital malformations. Most of the children are referred from other hospitals throughout Germany and overseas.



WORKING ACTIVITY

Dr. med. Rolf Habenicht, Dr. med. Wiebke Hülsemann and their staff were always willing to discuss and teach me the relevant procedures and share their extensive knowledge and experience. They made me gently involved in the daily work developed at the department. I am very grateful to them for helping me to improve my understanding of congenital hand anomalies.

Pathologies

Syndactyly, polydactyly, radial and ulnar club hand, cleft hand and foot, thumb hypoplasia, macrodactyly, amniotic band syndrome, symbrachydactyly, brachydactyly, camptodactyly, clinodactyly, epidermolysis bullosa, arthrogyposis and radioulnar synostosis.

Surgical procedures

Microsurgical techniques, toe transfers, cutaneous grafts, web reconstruction, debulkings, tendon transfers, ligament reconstruction, joint distraction, lengthening, corrective osteotomies, transpositions, epiphysiodesis, arthrodesis and pollicizations.



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I was warmly welcomed by the whole family of hand surgeons and nurses. As the days started I was a continuous part of the rounds in the ward. Days passed mostly in the operating theatres and outpatient clinics. Also I had the privilege to be introduced to the German family life and culture. During my three months I experienced warm and generous hospitality which I will remember the rest of my life.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1- Learning the therapeutic approach for paediatric upper limb pathologies.
- 2- Improvement in the surgical techniques and the postoperative care for paediatric hand anomalies.
- 3- Establish collaboration for future research projects.

CONCLUSIONS

This fellowship was a great personal and professional experience for me, very useful to my future practice. It gave me more knowledge and confidence in congenital hand anomalies management. I would strongly encourage young colleagues in training to apply for the FESSH award to gain more knowledge and acquire new surgical skills.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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3. Dr. med. Rolf Habenicht, Dr. med. Wiebke Hülsemann, Dr. med. Max Mann and Dr. med. Frank Winkler for their teachings.
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