

REPORT ON MY EXPERIENCE IN TRAINING IN CHILDBIRTH INJURY SURGERIES

I am a female Ugandan, currently doing my residency in urology under college of surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA), in my final year of training.

I had a great opportunity last year in October for a week and participated in a fistula camp in Kamuli Missionary Hospital, where I was participating as a trainee in fistula repair. We managed to see about 30 women, most of them in their teen years with different injuries following childbirth, these are young women, majority after their first pregnancy, young, desperate, depressed and abandoned by their spouses without adequate social support from their families because of their conditions. Majority of these women had different types of fistulae, with a great proportion with vesicovaginal fistulas who are constantly leaking urine. Other conditions included stress urinary incontinence, and different grades of perennial tears. I was able to participate as either a first assistant, or primary surgeon under supervision in 19 surgeries. These surgeries are quite challenging but with continued training the art can be mastered, and they are fulfilling surgeries because the results are immediate and most importantly as a surgeon you contribute in bringing hope to the once abandoned, desperate young woman.

I am grateful for such a great opportunity and looking forward to more camps as I grow in the art and skill of fistula repair so that I can become part of this great and amazing team restoring hope to many Ugandan young women who have been unfortunate and sustained these devastating injuries.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

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