

ORAL SURGERY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

FELBRIDGE HOTEL 5TH November 2010

The 2011 Autumn meeting of the Oral Surgery Club of Great Britain Centred around the Felbridge Hotel East Grinstead. Following the Committee Meeting, the Annual General Meeting Commenced at 17.45, a small number of issues were raised by this which will be communicated to members in the future.

Following this members and accompanying partners were transported to the Surgeons' Mess at East Grinstead and were treated to a champagne reception and buffet. The food was ideal and perfect for being washed down with Perrier Jouet Champagne (Winston Churchill's favourite). The congenial atmosphere of the mess was supplemented by a witty speech by Peter Banks, which rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

The Following morning at 0900 the Scientific Meeting commenced.

Dr Peter Venn gave an excellent presentation on his sleep studies unit which he started from scratch and now 17 years later sees 12,000 patients a year. This involves a team including an orthognathic surgeon. He gave a very clear account of the different states of sleep stressing the importance of non-REM sleep. Narcolepsy could be graded with the Epworth scale, giving a frightening example of a nanny who frequently fell asleep while driving young children to school! He discussed the treatment of these disorders; an eye opening presentation.

Mr Laurence Newman gave an entertaining account of the issues of consent pointing out that consent and consent forms was not synonymous. He discussed the importance of a patients' capacity to make consent with interesting examples relating to mental health and that consent needed to be voluntary without coercion and of course informed. He illustrated the changing pattern of the last point with examples to show how the burden of information that the courts consider should be communicated to patients, has increased with each decade. An informative talk that was certainly made amusing by the clear impression that Mr Newman had had a bad preceding week.

Following Coffee **Lt. Col. Tania Cubison**, a Military Plastic Surgeon gave the most serious talk of the day. This graphically illustrated the horrendous injuries suffered by our forces fighting for us in Afghanistan. Her account of injuries included a harrowing video of a serious injury being sustained and the first aid given. There was an account of the initial treatment given to casualties in Afghanistan, stressing the use and importance of haemostatic agents. Treatment given in the UK was outlined, and showed the enormity of the problems that surgeons face dealing with such severe injuries. Of note was the difficulty in dealing with fungal contamination that occurs when such wounds are sustained in an agricultural environment. The rehabilitation of those injuries was shown and it was good to know that this included psychological support, though the long term psychological effects are unclear. The entire process from initial to final treatment was shown with a vivid case history. Not surprisingly an active discussion followed.

After Lunch **Mr Jeremy Collyer** gave a fascinating talk on the use of Navigation in Maxillofacial Surgery. This was a complicated subject and the presenter did extremely well to make this talk so

clear and comprehensible. The importance of planning was stressed, in ensuring the appropriate scan was available to plan the surgery and markers to orientate the patient so that the operative time was minimised. Very clear and graphic examples of orbital and zygomatic surgery were shown to illustrate how useful this technique was when applied correctly. One of the problems cited was the initial £120,000 cost in purchasing the hardware and software necessary. The later point was enthusiastically taken in the very active discussion that followed.

Mr Roger Smith gave a very clear account of the treatment of breast cancer although focussing not surprisingly on reconstruction. He discussed innovations in microvascular surgery and has hardly ever not used a venous coupler for many years. Different types of breast implants were discussed, including cohesive gel. He gave an interesting account of new flaps available to the reconstructive breast surgeon including the TUG flap from the gluteal region. On the generality of breast cancer his insight that the BRAC gene does not have the monopoly on inherited breast cancer was fascinating as was the new serological tests that might be used in detecting early breast cancer in the future.

Mr Balj Dheansa gave an interesting account into the latest treatment of burns pointing out the remarkable survivability of even 80% burns in this age. He showed how very useful telemedicine was in assessing and preparing for patients transferred to burns units. Doppler scanning was useful in predicting tissue survival. The use of allografts was shown as was autologous keratinocytes. Enzymic debridement to minimize the loss of healthy tissue was shown graphically, and new therapies such as transforming growth factor beta 3 was discussed in the prevention of keloid. The talk was illustrated with excellent clinical photographs, clearly the photographic Department at East Grinstead had contributed to much of the day.

Following tea the programme was rounded off with a lively presentation by **Mr Peter Armstein** on how he had managed over the last 16 years to convert a decrepit burns unit into a modern profitable private hospital. Interestingly the defunct saline bath made its appearance in three out of four Plastic Surgery presentations. It was clear from the presentation that in keeping the hospital a viable entity, Peter had nearly lost his shirt and must have sustained considerable damage to his coronary arteries. It was interesting to see how the project only really became viable after linking up with a major healthcare provider. The energy of this presentation was ideal to keep members attention for the last talk.

This finished an accomplished Scientific Programme. Such was the quality of all these presentations, I would say that any member who fell asleep at any time during the programme, would benefit from an urgent referral to the first speaker!

The day for members' partners was altogether a more leisurely affair. Following a visit to Chiddingstone castle which was enjoyed, lunch was undertaken at the Hotel du Vin Tunbridge Wells; this was enjoyed so much there was thankfully little time for shopping in the Town Centre!

At 18.30 promptly members were transferred by coach to the Tudor splendour of

Hever Castle. Upon arrival members and their partners were taken round this incredibly historic building by a number of knowledgeable guides. This privately owned castle had been beautifully maintained and contained an almost priceless array of tapestries, paintings, furniture and documents.

After sparkling wine and canapés a superb dinner followed, complimented by very drinkable wines. After the loyal toast the President made a short speech. The meal was rounded off by vintage port and liqueurs. Members returned to the Felbridge Hotel or nearby, ending what in all aspects had been a superbly organised and enjoyable meeting.

Andrew Lyons. Secretary