

SIGN

FRACTURE CARE INTERNATIONAL



A new headlamp helps Dr. Sam Kiwesa perform SIGN Surgery.

Lighting the Way

By Jeanne Dillner

During our recent visit to Ethiopia, we experienced a power outage during surgery at St. Paul Hospital. Dr. Milkias Tsehaye and his surgical team compensate for these outages by having headlamps and flashlights available to light the surgical site. However, surgeries are still delayed because when the power goes out, the sterilizer has to restart its 40-minute cycle. When this occurred during our visit, we followed the residents to the emergency room to see what new trauma patients had arrived since the previous night. One patient had arrived a few minutes before. He was

in a road traffic accident that left him with three fractures. Dr. Milkias plans to perform SIGN Surgery once the patient was stabilized.

Thanks to a generous in-kind donation from Leatherman Tool Group, Inc., we gave headlamps to SIGN Surgeons in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and South Sudan. This equipment helps SIGN Surgeons mitigate challenging environments and provide excellent care for their patients.

Thank you to Leatherman Tool Group, Inc. for their ongoing support of SIGN Surgeons around the world!



Dr. Milkias will be among the first to participate in a new pelvic fracture fellowship in Ethiopia.

Innovation & Improvement in Ethiopia

By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

Ethiopia is addressing increased numbers of fractures due to road traffic accidents and trauma. This is an epidemic we are solving together.

Problems to be solved include increasing numbers of fractures and increasing complexity of fractures. SIGN Surgeons and Staff are working to address these problems in a number of ways.

TRAINING MORE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Two years ago Ethiopia had 47 orthopaedic surgeons for 100 million people. There are now 78 residents in the Black Lion Hospital residency program and 26 in the St. Paul Hospital residency program. More residency programs to train orthopaedic surgeons are being established around the country. When these newly trained orthopaedic surgeons begin practice in their new hospitals, they will want SIGN Implants and Instruments.

TREATING MORE COMPLEX FRACTURES

The first training program for pelvic fracture surgeons will be taught by



Dr. Sami Hailu talks to Dr. Zirkle about pelvic fracture surgery.

Dr. Sami Hailu at Black Lion Hospital. Dr. Sami recently completed a pelvic fellowship in Canada, and is now working long days performing pelvic fracture surgery. Dr. Mapuor Mading, a surgeon from South Sudan, will spend three months with Dr. Sami and become the only surgeon in South Sudan capable of treating pelvic fractures.

PERFORMING SURGERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

St. Paul Hospital has one senior staff and a team of residents working through the night to treat the fractures that come in each day. The patients can be discharged the next day or the day after, which will allow more admissions. This is the protocol of trauma centers in United States.



More than 100 surgeons and residents participated in the Ethiopia SIGN Conference.

Ethiopia *(continued from page 2)*



The rising number of trauma injuries are crowding hospital wards.

NEW PROTOCOLS FOR TREATING OPEN FRACTURES (EXPOSED BONE)

We are studying the results of early soft-tissue closure and early insertion of a SIGN Nail in open fracture cases. Open fractures are very serious injuries, and the surgeon must decide when to cover the bone with soft-tissue and place the SIGN Nail. The goal of the SIGN Surgeon is to get the best results for all fractures. The protocol used in the past was to clean the wound and put the patient in an external fixation device. This results in multiple surgeries and many question whether this is optimum treatment. Hospitals in developing countries are struggling

to treat many injured patients. Therefore, operating time and surgeons' time is at a premium. Earlier soft-tissue closure and placement of a SIGN Nail would decrease the number of surgeries and the time in surgery for the patient, allowing more patients to be treated. We must study these different approaches to provide the optimum care for each patient.

SIGN is pleased that the Ethiopian orthopaedic surgeons are addressing the problem of increased numbers of fractures to be treated. This does mean more SIGN Implants and Instruments will be needed, but the patients will receive better results. That is our goal.



6,000 cars are imported to Ethiopia every day, increasing congestion.

Thank you!

**OVER
\$102,000***

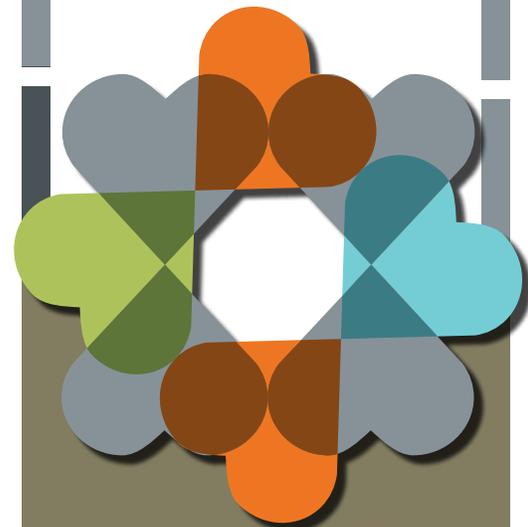
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Save the date

August 24, 2017

SIGN Open House

11am - 2pm, tours, chats & lunch

Contact SIGN

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2017 SIGN Conference

Empower a Surgeon with a
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Education + Implants =
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150 surgeons from **30+** countries
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Conference** held at our headquarters
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This practical educational
experience gives
SIGN Surgeons the
knowledge to provide
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