

Archives - Kleinzee Report

Kleinzee 2003 (25th - 29th August)

Overview of the trip

The 5 day trip is an ongoing study of a rare mutation of HNPCC (Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colon Cancer) traced back to a family based in the Namaqualand area.

Over the years the family has grown and spread into the surrounding areas including; Kleinzee, Springbok, Koingnaas, Clanwilliam and many others.

Our aim is to reach these families and with the use of Colonoscopy, assess the mutation, its spreading and transfer.

Hundreds of family members have now been traced and their pathology recorded. Early detection, surgery, diet awareness, etc have now resulted in an extended life expectancy for the patients involved.

This year we performed a total of 68 procedures, including 16 in Clanwilliam, 30 in Springbok and 22 in Kleinzee.

A number of the family members work in the mining town of Kleinzee. It is privately owned by De Beers, who have subsequently seen the need to treat their employees and therefore assist our team financially during the trip.

The reason for going up at this time of year is to also see the beautiful flowers that litter the normally 'barren' landscape... This year as you can see by the background picture, with a little help from some unexpected rain... the flower count was - Zero!

My Involvement

Together with Tecmed and Olympus, I am proud to have joined in, for this my 6th trip in this truly 'Humanitarian' venture.

As a result of these 'remote' Hospitals not having the equipment to perform such procedures, we have offered our help.

This year saw us 'loaning' equipment valued at over 1,5 million Rand, comprising 4 x Video Colonoscopes, 2 x Video Gastrosopes, 2 x complete Exera Video systems, 2 x 20" Monitors, Diathermy and Suction units and all related accessories (snare, biopsy forceps, etc).

With such expensive equipment involved, I also 'double up' as the OFFICIAL scope cleaner (see picture alongside). Hard work when over 40 procedures can and have been performed in 1 day!!!