

-----Original Message-----

From: Dean Lorich [<mailto:dgl@tmo.blackberry.net>]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 8:07 PM

Cc: Franzon, Nancy

Subject: Re: Haiti relief

Roman

David Helfet organized our team with a lot of help from political connections and Synthes to get us here. Just getting here initially was a cluster. The one thing I would caution against is coming alone as a group of ortho surgeons. The hospital we more or less took over was most interested in the whole composite, anesthesiologists OR nurses and techs are even more valued. Equipment is priceless. Our hospital went from 2 standard OR's to 7 by tomorrow by converting rooms to OR's however other than the surgeons everything else is extraordinarily lacking (we came with 2 plane loads of Synthes equipment/ lavage anesthesiologists etc). We are limited by the anesthesiologists. At this point there is zero organization by the military or UN on getting the patients treated by getting into the hospitals and forcing them to run efficiently as we know they could ideally. I believe what you are attempting would be ideal however ultimately frustratingly nonproductive for the people of Haiti unless it is a program built with a full understanding of all the limitations in this society, that could create this disaster of such magnitude. The # of injuries is in the many thousands on a system that had zero structure for surgical care preexisting.

Regards

Dean

Dean G. Lorich, M.D.

Associate Director

Orthopaedic Trauma Service

-----Original Message-----

From: "Hayda, Roman" <[Roman\\_Hayda@brown.edu](mailto:Roman_Hayda@brown.edu)>

Date: Sun, 17 Jan 2010 20:29:15

Subject: RE: Haiti relief

Dean

Did not know you were there. Sounds like the scenario I was envisioning. Unfortunately the longer it takes to get there the fewer options are available. Nonetheless there will be an ongoing need for assistance. Which organization did you go there with? How long are you staying? Do you need anyone to come in for relief in the upcoming weeks? Keep up your strength! sounds like you will need it. Chris Born, Jim Kreig and Lew Zirkle are also somewhere in country.

Roman

From: Dean Lorich [<mailto:dgl9002@nyp.org>]  
Sent: Sun 1/17/2010 8:23 PM  
To: Hayda, Roman;  
Cc: franzon@aaos.org  
Subject: Re: Haiti relief

Roman

Am here now in haiti and been since friday with a team that includes 4 ortho trauma surgeons, 2 anesthesiologist, 1 gen surg trauma surgeon, 2 OR techs, 2 NP's. We came with a plane loaded with trauma equipment OR supplies, anesthetic medication etc. We burned thru the majority of perishables in a day and a half. Team has been going non stop for the last 36hrs. Issue is there is nothing here to start with. We are still amputating 50 percent of all open extremity injuries and probably should be amputating the other 50 as there is zero ability with the existing hospitals and services to attempt salvage in any limb as there is no fluoro, limbs are gangrenous when you begin and the likelihood of being able to manage the soft tissues with repeat debridements, antibiotics and plastics coverage is nonexistent. I appreciate efforts to organize and something needs to be done but unless it comes with an orthopaedic trauma hospital run the right way with staffing and equipment and beds available I don't see much success other than MASH type surgery. The volume of these high energy ortho injuries is inconceivable and unless there is true organization, haiti its economy and people will be dealing with these orthopaedic issues for generations.

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