



bochildrenshospital

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NEWSLETTER, March 2016



Life saving treatment at Bo Children's Hospital

Munda Kainese, 2 years and eleven months old, was brought to the emergency unit at Bo Children's Hospital with a history of high fever ranging above 39c and had been deeply unconscious for the past two days at home going through herbal treatments. Munda's granny whom he has been staying with, alleged his appetite had been moderate, but medically it's impossible for an unconscious patient to eat orally. The name Munda, in one of our largest ethnic languages in Sierra Leone means "ours". Such a child is considered precious to his family.

After 48 hours of intensive treatment, the group led by the granny, whose expectation was a dramatic recovery of the child, was disappointed. They were not very convinced about the progress of Munda and they decided to take him home in order to seek attention of a spiritualist. They thought that the child had been bewitched. Knowing the prognoses of the child's condition we rejected their request, but after so much pleading the team later agreed that he could go, on one condition, that is to sign that it was against medical advice, which they refused to do.

Munda's condition after thorough investigation was found to be cerebral malaria or possibly meningitis and sepsis. As we gradually reached the end of his first week of admission, he was now able to eat and drink, could hear sounds but could not see nor sit without support.

Munda's developmental milestone was totally arrested but the above activities showed light at the end of the tunnel.

Munda's mother who had come in with the child was in the last stage of pregnancy. She did not realise she was in labor until she started having strong contractions. Since the facility lacks a maternity unit even though the expertise was there, she was quickly transferred to the maternity centre in the Bo Government Hospital where she delivered a bouncing baby boy. With the support from our medical team and staff, the baby was unanimously named Doctor Sombie.



Doctor and his Mother

"Doctor" as the new born baby was now called, returned to BCH. "Doctor" was brought back to BCH after delivery but had a high fever and refused to breastfeed so he too was admitted and given Parenteral antibiotics which were very effective.

Life Saving Treatment at BCH continued ...

Overall, the three patients were fully recuperated and were happily discharged home, whilst the father later pleaded to go home and promised to come back and pay his medical bills. Because of the emergency situation they had come unprepared. In our local setting, families don't put aside money for emergencies of this nature. We could not ask them to come back because they could not pay, it is embodied in the vision and mission of the institution.

The first case admitted to the Isolation Ward at BCH

Although this part of the building was not fully refurbished by the contractor, management made a decision to admit the first case of complicated measles in a child who was brought from a village in another District. The town happens to be one of the catchment towns of the hospital. The treatment was effective and the child recovered.



Measles Patient

Spina Bifida Patients

In the following photo is one of two cases of Spina Bifida that went through consultation at BCH. The patients were later referred to a hospital abroad. In their first follow up visit it was learnt that they had their surgeries done in neighbouring Conakry, the capital of Guinea. During their visit they couldn't present discharge cards showing where the surgeries were done.

The mother could only say the surgeries were done in one of the private hospitals in Conakry.



Spina Bifida patient with Mother

Volunteer Nurses at BCH

Initially, management accepted ten of the volunteer nurses whose number has now doubled due to the efficient performance of some of them. These nurses are only given a token amount to boost their morale each month. All have had experience in working at an Isolation Unit during the Ebola outbreak.

Some of their functions in various disciplines in the hospital are:

Performing nursing procedures on the wards.

Collating all patient fees. Account to the finance office at the end of each day.

Prepare a monthly return that is presented to the DHMT.

Assist in the pharmacy in recording stock in and out.

Dispensing of medicines.

Work at triage centre to screen patients coming in with infectious diseases.

Carry out immunizations twice a week.



Volunteer Nurses at BCH