



Duty-Bound

The family unit has a very strong bond in Bangladesh. Children are duty-bound to care for their parents as there are no social programs to assist. This young man is waiting in pre-op for his father's surgery. Family members like him are expected to provide meals, nursing and to pay the medical costs in the hospital.

Hospitalization is free in Bangladesh government hospitals. Due to budgetary constraints, the patient must purchase antibiotics, and all surgical supplies, including implants before the surgery can be performed. Many families pool their money to make these purchases. This can delay surgery causing increased stress on the patient and the family. If money is not available, the patient may have to remain in hospital for months waiting for their fracture to heal.

SIGN provides implants free of charge so that poverty stricken patients can receive prompt treatment. This allows them to leave their hospital beds and return home within days.

Your \$100 donation supports the cost of one SIGN surgery.



SIGN Aid: Easing the Family Burden



Patients wait for surgery with family members at their side.



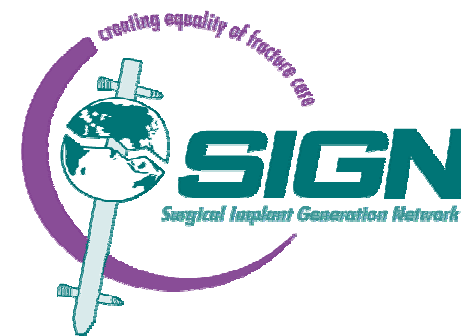
The list of materials to be purchased before surgery.



Bangladesh Public Transportation

The Rickshaw Driver

The tinkling bells of the rickshaws permeate the air throughout Dhaka. Many young boys and men come to work in the city as they have no work in their villages. These young men become the main breadwinners for their impoverished families. They work long hours carrying up to 5 people at a time or carrying heavy loads of produce to market. The rickshaws have no gears, and are difficult to peddle and navigate through the heavy traffic. As a result, the rickshaw drivers are frequently injured and are taken to government hospitals for treatment of severe fractures. The SIGN system is used daily by local surgeons to successfully treat these young men.



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 December 2006



Papers of importance to all orthopaedic surgeons were presented at the 2nd SIGN conference.

NITOR, the largest orthopaedic hospital in Bangladesh, has assumed the role of regional teaching center for use of SIGN in orthopaedic trauma.



Dr. Rizvi (left) is president of the Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society. Dr. Quasem (right) is the SIGN program manager in NITOR.

The surgeons at NITOR use excellent technique in caring for their patients with severe fractures.



During this trip, Comilla Medical College became the 5th SIGN Program established in Bangladesh.

Surgeons from four hospitals exchange orthopaedic ideas. These interchanges between surgeons took place in the operating room and in informal talks between surgeries in addition to the conference.



Bangladesh SIGN conference, surgery and expansion

Many people worked together in preparation for and during our stay in Bangladesh. They worked during their holidays and after hours to serve their patients.



Comilla Medical College is located on a very busy high-way. Often there are not enough beds in the hospital to accommodate patients. The only place in the hospital for these patients is on the floor.