



KYUSHU UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital,
Mahidol University**

Siriraj Resident/Fellow Exchange Program

To Kyushu University Hospital, Japan

From 1st January 2020 - 31st January 2020



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Study Year: Fourth year resident

Overseas Clinical Elective Rotation Final Report

Introduction

My name is Ornpalin Rintaravitoon, a 4th year Pediatric Surgery resident at Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. I graduated from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in 2013. After graduation, I worked as a general practitioner in Nakhon Si Thammarat for 3 years. This is my first time to have a chance for observational study in the foreign country. I participated at Pediatric Surgery Department, Kyushu University Hospital in January 2020.

University Review



Kyushu University Hospital is one of the biggest national university hospitals in Japan and is a core hospital for the West Japan region. It located in Fukuoka City, the largest city in Kyushu. The hospital has a history exceeding 100 years since the establishment. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Medical Sciences and dental school hospitals in Japan with more than 3,300 staffs, the bed capacity more than 1,400 and receiving an average of at least 3,000 outpatients per day. Kyushu University Hospital is also the medical research center and the leader in the field of transplant surgery.

Pediatric Surgery Department of Kyushu University Hospital treats both common and advanced surgical diseases in the pediatric patients since birth to adolescence. The department is well-known for liver transplantation and has many published research about several pediatric surgical conditions. In addition, my senior resident has ever visited at Kyushu University Hospital, so we have the connection and it is not difficult to contact.

Expectation and Objectives

My objectives of this elective program in Kyushu University Hospital were to learn about different operative techniques and minimal invasive surgery in pediatric surgery, the

training program and researches, and the hospital service system in Japan. My special interest is liver transplantation, so I also expected to gain the experience about this operative field from Kyushu University Hospital which is one of the transplantation centers in Japan.

Moreover, I would like to promote the collaboration between Department of Pediatric Surgery of Siriraj Hospital and Kyushu University Hospital.

Knowledge/Experience gained



Pediatric Surgery Division consists of 10 staffs, 3 clinical pediatric surgical fellows, and 5 research pediatric surgical fellows. There are the interns and fifth-year medical students joining the team as the rotation each month. Professor Tomoaki Taguchi is the head of Pediatric Surgery Division, he is also the head of the critical care in pediatric patients in Kyushu University Hospital. My supervisor is Assistant Professor Kosuke Kirino.

There are inpatient ward, outpatient department, intensive care units, and operating rooms in the division. The activities started at 8.20 am including the ward round, duty report, conference, and journal club (at 7.30 am on Wednesdays). I attended in all of the activities. Professors and the fellows usually translated the discussion in the activities from Japanese to English for me.

Majority of my time here was spent in the operating rooms. There were a lot of both common and complicated cases. Professor Tomoaki was very kind, he taught me how to scrub in and allowed me to join in many operative fields. I had a chance to learn several cases such as laparoscopic appendectomy, herniotomy (open herniotomy in boys and laparoscopic percutaneous extraperitoneal closure in girls), orchidopexy, thoracotomy, and endoscopy. They performed both open and laparoscopic tumor removal in the cases of neoplasm such as hepatoblastoma, neuroblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma of the bladder. There were some details of the operative procedures that was different from Siriraj hospital. It was also my first time to see Frey procedure, which was a type of pancreaticojejunostomy designed to treat chronic pancreatitis.

My special interest, which was one of my objectives, was liver transplantation. Dr. Koichiro Yoshimaru, who was the expert of pediatric hepatobiliary surgery, explained about the procedures and gave me the information that there were approximately 70 pediatric cases had undergone liver transplantation in Kyushu University Hospital in the last 10 years. 7 patients got the liver from cadaveric donors, the others were living donors. Fortunately, there were 2 cases of liver transplantation in this month (biliary atresia who failed Kasai operation and hepatoblastoma with lung metastasis). It was great to see every steps of this operation.

When compared Kyushu University Hospital to Siriraj Hospital, the main differences were the training program, treatment protocols, and some surgical techniques. There were 5 research pediatric surgical fellows in the team, most of their time was doing the research in their specialities. There were also many modern facilities and the laboratory in the division, so Kyushu University Hospital could publish many research articles each year (especially in precision medicine and regenerative medicine) while we could not do this much in Pediatric Surgery Division at Siriraj Hospital.

About the surgical techniques, most of the operations here were done by laparoscopic technique first such as appendectomy, herniotomy. The fellows could perform minimally invasive surgery very well. There were also some differences of the surgical procedures. For example, they used the microscope when doing the arterial anastomosis and performed cholangiography again after bile duct anastomosis in the cases of liver transplantation. Almost cases were living donor transplantation, while all cases at Siriraj Hospital were cadaveric donor transplantation.

Benefits

I gained the great experience and learned many up-to-date knowledge and surgical techniques from Kyushu University Hospital as my objectives. Knowing several techniques helped to improve my skill, I will share them with my pediatric surgery team at Siriraj Hospital and will apply what I learned to make the benefit to my patients in Thailand.

On the last day of the elective program, I had the opportunity to present about Pediatric Surgery Division at Siriraj Hospital to Professor Tomoaki and the team. We discussed each other in many topics which were similar and different between the two hospitals. I hoped that one day we would have the meeting and collaboration for pediatric surgical patients.

Life in Abroad

Kyushu University Hospital has the Overseas Exchange Center (OVEX) for accelerate international academic exchanges between the hospital and hospitals abroad. I contacted to the OVEX via Ms. Naoko Hatanaka who is the international co-ordinator. When I arrived at

Kyushu University Hospital, Ms. Naoko gave me the identification card, the gown, and brief information about the hospital. I also had my own locker at the OVEX. Then she introduced me to Assistant Professor Kosuke Kirino, my supervisor.

About the accommodation, Ms. Naoko recommended “Weekly Monthly Access Tenjin” to me. It is a monthly rental apartment located in Tenjin area. The apartment is convenient, good price, and foreign trainees at Kyushu University Hospital usually stay here. The room type is the private room fully equipped with the bathroom and small kitchen.

The Japanese public transportation is efficient and very punctual. It took time about 10 minutes walk from my apartment to Tenjin station, then I took the subway to Maidashi-Kyudai byoinmae station (the station located in front of the hospital) which took 6 minutes from Tenjin station.

Tenjin is the downtown area of Fukuoka. There are many shops and restaurants in this area. Most of Japanese food has good taste. I sometimes bought the raw materials from the supermarket for cooking at my room.

Fukuoka is relatively warmer area of Japan, but it is unexpectedly cold in January due to short hours of sunlight. The average temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius. I had to wear the sweater, the coat, a scarf, and gloves every day. It is good that the apartment and all of the buildings have heaters.

Future Plan

After finishing my residency training at Division of Pediatric Surgery, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, I will work as the pediatric surgeon at Paholpolpayuhasena Hospital which is the public provincial hospital of Kanchanaburi. Being the first and only one pediatric surgeon in the province is challenging, but the knowledge and good connection I got from Siriraj Hospital and Kyushu University Hospital assure me for this beginning of my future career.

Recommendations

I had the wonderful time at Pediatric Surgery Division at Kyushu University Hospital. The staffs and pediatric surgery team were so nice and kind to me. They also held the welcome and farewell party for me. The work atmosphere was educated and full of happiness. There were several cases of pediatric patients to learn, including both common and complicated cases. I would like to recommend Kyushu University Hospital to my friends and my junior residents for elective program. It's my pleasure if I can give any information to them.

The only problem during joining the pediatric surgery team here was the language barrier. Because most of the conference was in Japanese language, sometimes I could not understand all the aspects of the discussion. About the accommodation, it will be better if the hospital can provide the dormitory for foreign doctors. Although the public transportation in Japan is convenient, it will save more money if we have the accommodation in the hospital area.