FREE CLEFT PALATE SURGERIES BY SMILETRAIN: EXPERIENCE IN TWO CENTRES THAT PRACTICE BLOODLESS SURGERY AND THE USE OF ALLOGENEIC BLOOD TRANSFUSION RESPECTIVELY

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Introduction: Smiletrain is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) based in New York. It funds the repair of cleft lip and palate all over the World. This paper compares the outcome of cleft palate surgeries done in two centres; one uses allogeneic blood but the other centre practices bloodless surgery.

Methods: This is a retrospective study. case notes of all the patients that had cleft palate surgery in the two centres were retrieved from the records department. Data such as age, sex, addresses, complications and mortality was analyzed.

Results: Sixty-three patients had cleft palate surgery at the bloodless surgery centre and there were 5 wound failures in form of either fistula formation or total wound breakdown in the first eight years of the surgeries, and there was no mortality. In the last four years of cleft palate repair in this centre there was no wound failure. Thirteen patients had cleft palate repair in the last two years in the second centre where allogeneic blood transfusion is administered and there was no wound failure but there was one mortality.

Conclusion: Allogeneic blood transfusion after cleft palate repair may not give a better outcome. The wound failures in the first eight years in the centre that practice bloodless surgery may be due to the learning curve at the beginning of the surgeries because no wound failure took place in the bloodless surgery centre in the last four years.

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Abstract track: Outcomes of Bloodless Care