

**Report for the International Relations Committee,
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
of the Anaesthesia Refresher Course, Maputo, Mozambique**

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The 6th National Anaesthesia and 3rd National Pain Refresher Course was held in the Ministry of Health, Maputo, Mozambique. This was a World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesia (WFSA) backed Course, chaired by Dr Emilia Jeque (Consultant Anaesthetist, Maputo) and co-ordinated by Dr Teresa Schwalbach (Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine, Maputo) and Dr Roger Eltringham (Medical Director, Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide and WFSA Representative).

The course was attended by over 100 Physician and Nurse Anaesthetists from all over the country. For many this was the only access to any teaching available to them for several years, often since they completed their training. A significant proportion of those who attended work in isolation and have no regular contact with other anaesthetists. Transport costs and accommodation for delegates were funded largely by the WFSA.

The course ran for five days and the programme included a mixture of lectures, practical demonstrations, workshops and question and answer sessions. The topics covered were decided by the local organising team from the Central University Hospital, Maputo. Sessions were run by a mixture of local staff and a team of five visiting speakers. The visiting team comprised Dr Roger Eltringham (Course co-ordinator), Dr Getulio de Oliveira (Consultant Anaesthetist, Brazil and member of the WFSA education committee), Mr Robert Neighbour (Engineering Consultant, Diamedica UK), Dr Simon Webster (Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Cheltenham General Hospital UK) and me. The lectures aimed to cover a broad range of topics, including anaesthetic equipment (including the Lifebox Pulse Oximeter project), anaesthetic emergencies, difficult airway management, anaesthesia for the elderly, paediatrics, blood transfusion, Intensive Care topics, regional anaesthesia and pain medicine. There were practical demonstrations of Advanced Life Support, regional anaesthesia techniques and difficult airway techniques. All participants had the opportunity to practice surgical cricothyrotomy on manikins. The question and answer sessions were run at the end of each topic and often lasted over an hour. Participants were

encouraged to write their questions on paper anonymously and these were then read out to the audience. A panel of speakers then provided a discussion and answered the questions. This proved a very popular and useful part of the programme and over 50 questions were discussed in detail over the week. These sessions also provided an excellent forum for discussion of the Surgical Safety Checklist and the importance of human factors in the theatre environment.



Picture 1 – Teaching Cricothyrotomy

Picture 2 – Advanced Life Support Training

During the course, we took the opportunity to conduct a survey of those attending. This included questions about the availability of equipment (including pulse oximeters), drugs, access to teaching and learning resources. A summary of the results is shown below. The results are divided into responses from those working in the Capital City, Maputo and those working outside Maputo, as the differences between the two areas are often marked. The results are shown in Appendix 1.

The feedback at the end of the course was extremely positive, from both the participants and the organisers. As visitors, we found Maputo, Mozambique and the Anaesthetists to be extremely welcoming and we had a very enjoyable and informative visit. Often the questions that we were asked were very detailed and showed detailed understanding of biomedical sciences. We were particularly impressed by the general level of knowledge amongst those attending, although unfortunately the resources are often not available to turn the theory into reality. The striking difference in resources between the Maputo area and the rest of the country was born out by some interesting clinical dilemmas which were brought up in the question and answer sessions. I found this aspect to be extremely valuable in challenging my ability to change my practice according to resources available. In addition to providing a much needed course for the Anaesthetists in Mozambique, I benefitted from the experience enormously both personally and professionally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Relations Committee for providing funding towards this trip.

Appendix 1

Result Summary of the Participant Survey, Anaesthesia Refresher Course, Maputo Mozambique, 2012

All figures relate to percentage of participants responding within each specified region

Equipment	Outside Maputo % without access	In Maputo % without access
Pulse oximeter	9	0
Oxygen analyser	64	32
Automated BP	50	4
ECG	52	2
N2O	61	7
Ventilator	33	2
Ventilator disconnect alarm	34	7
Defibrillator	42	28

Shortage	Outside Maputo % who experienced a problem in the last week	In Maputo % who experienced a problem in the last week
Power cuts	42	25
Oxygen	5	2
Unavailable drugs	57	82

Training Aid	Unavailable outside Maputo %	Unavailable in Maputo %
Text books	69	16
Anaesthetic Journals	91	91
Internet	89	80
Training Meetings	91	61
Contact with Colleagues	15	15