

Improved hemophilia care in developing countries through the World Federation of Haemophilia twinning programmes: the case of Yaoundé and Geneva

Authors: D. Mbanya^{1,2}, C. Tayou Tagny^{1,2}, S. Moudourou³, A. Ndoumba², F. Boehlen³, B. Stoll³, G. Reber³, A. Haffar⁴, P. de Moerloose³.

¹ Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé I
² Hematology and Blood Transfusion Unit, University Teaching Hospital of Yaoundé, Cameroon
³ Hopitaux Universitaires de Genève, Switzerland
⁴ World Federation of Haemophilia, Montreal, Canada

Background:

With paucity of data on bleeding disorders in Cameroon and with limited resources for appropriate diagnosis and management of these disorders, a twinning programme was created by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) between a resource-limited setting (Hematology and Blood Transfusion Service of the University Teaching Hospital of Yaoundé, Cameroon) and an established centre (Haemostasis Service of the University Hospitals of Geneva, Switzerland). Initiated in 2008, the twinning programme officially started in 2009 with the creation of a Hemophilia Treatment Centre in the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), Yaoundé. Under the supervision of the WFH, and working in collaboration with the local Association of Haemophilia, the programme aims at sensitizing the wider Cameroonian population on, and screening for bleeding disorders, managing diagnosed and existing cases as well as building capacity.

Major Activities:

Supervisory visits by Geneva to Yaoundé

- Reinforcement of CHU Haemophilia treatment Centre
- Sensitization programmes
- Screening for bleeding disorders
- Twinning between associations
- Human resources capacity building:
 - Training in Haemostasis in Senegal, London and Geneva
 - Training in physiotherapy in Senegal
 - Training in General Haematology in Geneva (ongoing)
- Capacity building (Equipment and consumables):
 - Semi-automatic coagulometer & reagents (Stago)
 - Clotting factor concentrates
 - (WFH; Baxter, Bayer, CSL Behring, NovoNordisk)

Major Outcomes:



Various visits: with patients; with local authorities & the WFH



Semi-automat (STAGO)



Sorting patient notes for consultation



Sensitization at World Haemophilia Day



Patient consultations

Conclusion:

Twinning with Geneva has proven very fruitful in many ways especially in developing local capacity for the Yaoundé Twin, and impacting tremendously on patient diagnosis and care

