



The Children's Hospital Trust
Tel: +27 (0)21 686 7860
Fax: +27 (0)21 686 7861
E-mail: cht@chtrust.org.za
www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za

Suite 259, Postnet X18, Rondebosch,
Cape Town, 7701, South Africa

Trust No T297/94
PBO No 930 004 493



FINAL REPORT

Saturday Surgeries

Surgical Waiting List Relief Initiative

at the

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

September – October 2013

Prepared by

The Children's Hospital Trust

November 2013



Daylin, Operated on in 2013

PROJECT CONTEXT

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital is well known nationally and internationally for the complex surgical procedures performed on children from all of the surgical specialities.

Due to its excellent reputation for healing critically ill children there is a huge demand for the Hospital's services resulting in extremely long surgical waiting lists. This often leads to procedures for children with less critical surgical needs being postponed to make place for intricate, lifesaving operations that must take preference due to time constraints and the scarcity of beds.

The Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) and General Paediatric Clinical Surgery cases often take a back seat, creating a long unmanageable list; a list of hundreds of children waiting for a chance at a normal childhood. Whilst these conditions are not lifesaving they are most certainly life changing for a young child.

These long waiting times not only mean that children have to live in discomfort for considerable periods of time, but also can lead to medical complications, with their minor surgical conditions becoming potentially critical cases.

SATURDAY SURGERIES RESULTS

The solution was to offer an additional surgery day at the Hospital on Saturdays over an 8-week period, 4 Saturdays dedicated to ENT and 4 to General Paediatric cases. The project was launched on Saturday 7th September 2013 and ended on Saturday 26th October 2013.

The project has completed its third successful cycle and your support has helped the following children:

42 ENT Surgeries

37 General Paediatric Surgeries

79 children benefited from your support.

An average of two additional children was treated per Saturday in 2013 compared to 2012. These children were waiting for much needed life changing operations, have undergone these procedures sooner and therefore increased their quality of life.

CONCLUSION

As a result of this amazing initiative the waiting lists at the Hospital have been successfully and efficiently shortened, alleviating the pressure on the Hospital for ENT and General Paediatric Surgery.

We want to express our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to Gift of the Givers Foundation for supporting this special initiative. We know there will be many *Saturday Surgeries* to come, and that future initiatives of this kind will again ensure manageable and reasonable waiting lists, preventing the development of medical complications from a delay and ensure that the children we care for receive the best medical treatment they deserve.

This wonderful initiative would not have been possible without your support. Given the opportunity, no doubt the 79 young patients and their families, whose lives were significantly improved by these operations, would join us in saying thank you too!