

Dr. Robert Vogelzang Travels with Multinational Team of Specialists

Robert L. Vogelzang, MD, Feinberg School of Medicine Professor of Radiology, and a multinational team of specialists in vascular malformations recently traveled to Cairo Egypt, Lublin Poland and Barcelona Spain to extend advanced curative interventional radiology embolization treatments to patients in three countries.

Dr. Vogelzang, accompanied by Wayne F Yakes, MD, Director of the Vascular Malformation Center in Denver Colorado and Krassi Ivancev, MD, endovascular specialist from the University of Malmo, Sweden, were invited by colleagues to treat patients and teach new techniques during a 10-day humanitarian journey in which a total of 87 treated patients benefited from their expertise and many others were examined and consulted upon.

The first stop for the international team was the International Medical Center (IMC) in Cairo Egypt where Dr. Tarek Radwan, chief of Vascular Surgery had assembled a large and diverse group of patients from all over Egypt requiring these specialists' expertise. In a marathon of three days, averaging 18 hours a day, about 20 patients per day were treated, 63 in total. Additionally, the team saw in clinic and consulted with Dr. Radwan on approximately 90 patients with large range of vascular malformations including venous, veno-lymphatic and arteriovenous malformations of the upper and lower extremities, craniofacial area, chest and abdomen. The physicians were also able to perform an embolization of a patient with life-threatening hemorrhage from a massive scalp AVM who was brought emergently to the IMC for treatment. The case ended successfully at 2 AM and saved the patient's life.

Dr. Vogelzang and the team then travelled to Lublin, Poland where they treated 24 patients with vascular malformations at the University of Lublin Poland Medical Center in collaboration with and at the invitation of Professor Krzysztof Pyra, MD and Professor Malgorzata Szczerbo-Trojanowska, MD, Chairman of Interventional Radiology. Over two days, patients with complex malformations were treated and others were seen in clinic including some brought to Lublin from Warsaw for treatment. A one day stop in Barcelona for patient consultations concluded the whirlwind tour of treatment and teaching.

This is not the first time that the team has traveled to Egypt; in 2014 52 patients at the IMC were treated successfully.

Vascular malformations are some of the most complex, challenging and difficult to treat lesions; surgical resection is often complicated by limited success and disfiguring outcomes. Over the past 15 years, a new paradigm of vascular malformation treatment has been advanced using endovascular methods and the use of embolization with ethanol and a variety of other agents. Ethanol has the principal advantage of curing lesions which have heretofore been untreatable.

Physicians in Egypt, Poland and Spain also benefited tremendously from the exchange of ideas and expertise delivered by the team. Techniques taught, demonstrated and acquired will be used by colleagues for the benefit of their patients in the future.



The team arrives at Cairo's International Medical Center (IMC). L to R: Dr Vogelzang, Dr. Wayne Yakes (Denver), Dr Krassi Ivancev (Malmo Sweden) and Dr Tarek Radwan (Chief of Vascular Surgery at IMC).



Vascular Malformation patient being treated at IMC.



The team and IMC physicians in the OR.



The team arrives at University of Lublin Poland Medical Center.



A complex facial malformation is treated in Lublin.



The entire Lublin team after the final case.