

Vorstand INTERPLAST - Germany e.V.

Gemeinnütziger Verein für Plastische Chirurgie in Entwicklungsländern
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A NONPROFIT ORGANISATION PROVIDING FREE RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY AROUND THE WORLD

Information leaflet

INTERPLAST consists of volunteer medical personnel (plastic surgeons, anaesthetists, operating room and anaesthetic nurses and other specialists), who work free of charge, usually during their annual holiday. Travel expenses, medical supplies and instruments are funded by donations raised in Germany from industry as well as the general public.

INTERPLAST- teams provide reconstructive operations that transform the lives of children with physical disabilities and thereby improve the future of the whole family of those children, too. INTERPLAST has no financial, political, racial or religious interest.

The aim is to provide plastic surgery to improve function, not to do cosmetic surgery. Cooperation with local medical staff and working at existing hospitals close to the patients´ home is efficient and offers education in a specialist field for all involved. Apart from medical staff, local volunteers with social commitment are essential for the preparation and the smooth running of a successful INTERPLAST-camp.

If you, your town, your hospital, or a charitable organisation you know think about hosting an INTERPLAST-camp, here are some important points to consider:

- **advance notice** for the team should be given at least 6 months before the intended date
- **duration of the camp** is usually 2 weeks, i.e. 10 operating days. Depending on the severity of cases, about 100 patients can be operated during that time.
- **size of the team** varies depending on the number of operating tables, anaesthetic facilities and local staff available. On average, a team will consist of 6-8 people, 2-4 surgeons, 2 anaesthetists, 1-2 OR-nurse and 1 anaesthetic nurse, thus being able to run 2 operating tables (smaller or larger teams possible on request).
- **Local staff** ,i.e. doctors, nurses, interested volunteers are essential for the smooth running of the camp
- **patient pre-selection** should be done by local doctors during the months before the camp. If possible, they should inform the team about the type of surgery and special cases beforehand to allow appropriate planning of instruments and supplies for the camp.
- **the first day** consists of screening and selecting the patients for the operating lists, unpacking equipment and setting up the operating room(s).
- **types of operation** : burns contractures, congenital deformities like cleft lip and palate, functional deficits or disfiguration from injury, infection (polio, leprosy, Noma etc.), tumours - in children, but usually some adults can be considered for surgery as well
- **long working hours** have to be anticipated by all involved to make an effective camp. Apart from operating, ward rounds and change of dressing sessions take place every day.
- **the hospital should offer** : two operating tables / anaesthetic machines, recovery room, enough beds (in tents, if necessary) electricity supply, water, normal saline for infusion, sheets and gowns, if possible oxygen, nitrous oxide, halothane, some dressing material, plaster of paris,
- **the INTERPLAST-team will provide** : special instruments and medical equipment, suture material and special drugs and dressings
- **you are requested to provide** : (if possible, but if you don´t have the means, other arrangements can be discussed) basic, clean accomodation, food and transport for the team. Government / Health ministry permission for camp; assistance with customs, excess baggage clearance.
- **Many years of experience and thousands of grateful patients are proof of the success of INTERPLAST activities. YOU can be part of it.**

For further information, please contact : INTERPLAST – Germany, Department of Plastic surgery
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