

NEO FOR NAMIBIA HELPING BABIES SURVIVE



TEAM

- Thomas M. Berger, MD

A more detailed report
can be downloaded from
www.neo-for-namibia.org

MISSION REPORT 2022-2 SHORT VERSION

August 4 to September 5, 2022

Mission goals

- To support local health care professionals at Rundu State Hospital by helping with daily ward rounds in the new Prem Unit
- To attempt to repair one of the EVE neo ventilators and to evaluate the performance of the new Masimo pulse oximeters (incl. a software update of the Rad-97)
- To evaluate the utility of the point of care testing (POCT) of C-reactive protein concentrations (introduced in April 2022)

NEO FOR NAMIBIA
HELPING BABIES SURVIVE

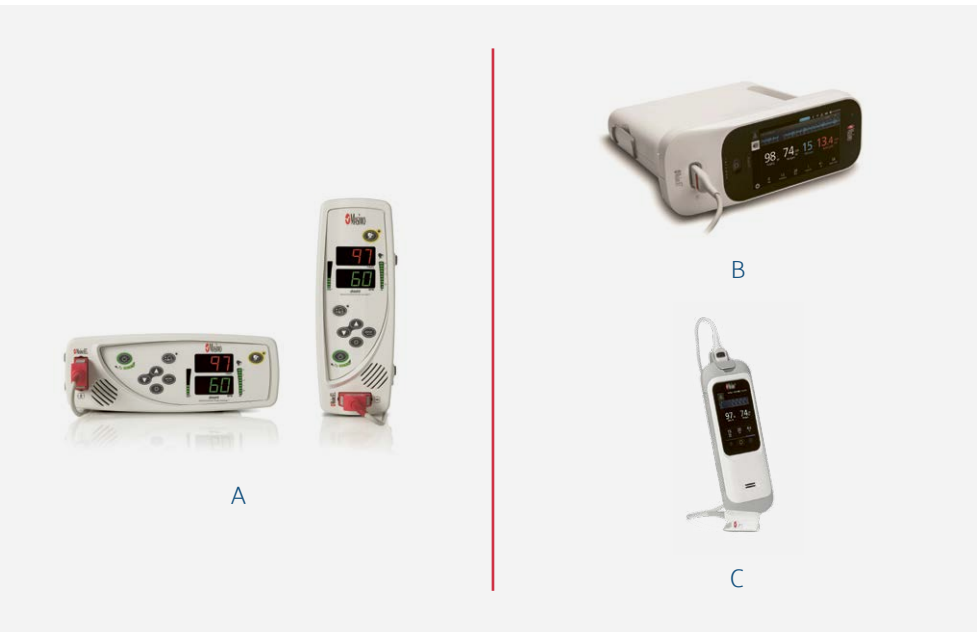
www.neo-for-namibia.org



Hospitals visited

- Rundu State Hospital
- Katima Hospital

Arriving safely in Rundu at sunset, after driving more than 700 km.



Monitoring equipment

A software update of the Rad-97 pulse oximeters was performed as suggested by the manufacturer. This appeared to be successful, and unexpected shutdowns no longer occurred. Unfortunately, 2 of 3 Rad-G monitors were not functioning. Our fears that more complex monitors (e.g., touch screen display) might render such equipment less reliable than the old, robust Rad-8 monitors appeared to come true.

The older Masimo® Rad-8 pulse oximeters (A) appear to be more robust than the new, more sophisticated Masimo® Rad-97 (B) and Rad-G devices (C).



MTTs Dolphin® CPAP machines with integrated Masimo® SET pulse oximeters: new patient cables allow the use with the new pulse oximetry sensors.



Brittle supply chains

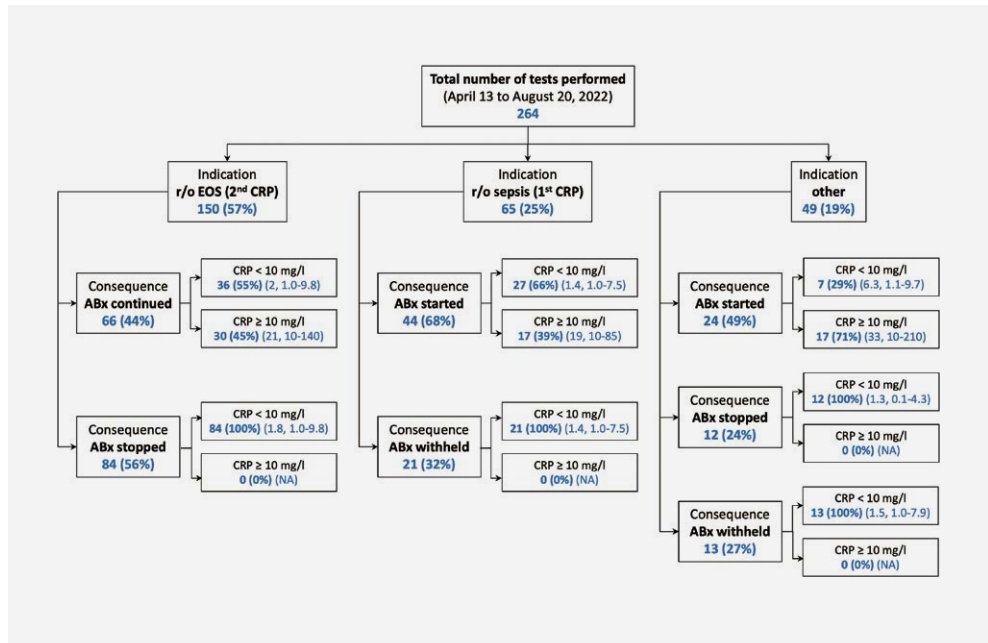
Thus far, the issue of unreliable supply chains for essential consumables and drugs had not been resolved. During the current mission, IV cannulas, human milk fortifier and caffeine were out of stock.

On several occasions, NEO FOR NAMIBIA – Helping Babies Survive financed the purchase of human milk fortifiers from public pharmacies when the MHSS system was unable to provide this essential supplement.

POCT of CRP concentrations

In April 2022, a point of care testing (POCT) device for C-reactive protein (CRP) measurement (AIDIAN QuikRead® go) was introduced. Data on its use was collected prospectively to study its impact on the use of antibiotics. The predetermined rules (CRP cut-off value of 10 mg/l to start/continue or stop antibiotics) were applied in 73% of cases. While not perfect, this undoubtedly has led to a significant reduction in unnecessary exposure to antibiotics.

Analysis of the use of point of care testing (POCT) of C-reactive protein concentrations.



Challenging cases

The sheer number of patients is amazing. Not surprisingly, next to routine cases, one frequently is faced with patients who present with unusual signs and symptoms that are sometimes difficult to classify.

Infant with multiple congenital anomalies: bilateral cleft lip and palate and split hand/foot malformation: possibly a rare case of Ectrodactyly-Ectodermal Dysplasia-Cleft Lip/Palate (EEC) syndrome (Rundu State Hospital).



Monochorionic-monoamniotic twins (left) are admitted to the Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital: despite extensive cord entanglement (right), they rapidly recovered from mild respiratory distress.



Post-term baby admitted to Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital after postnatal collapse in the maternity ward; the baby later died.





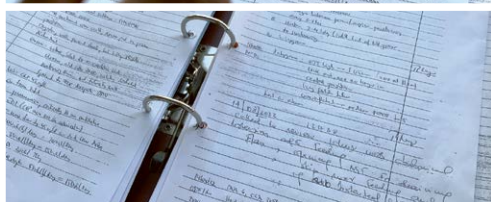
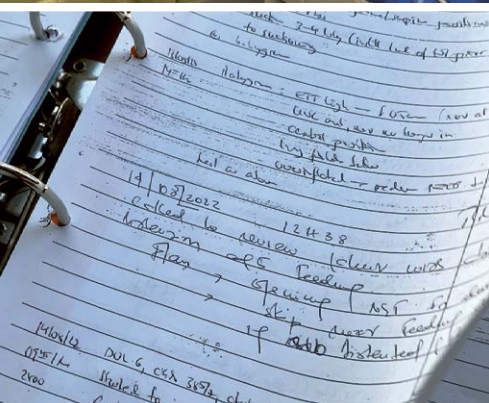
Progress in Katima

This was the 7th visit of Katima Hospital by NEO FOR NAMIBIA - Helping Babies Survive. The neonatal unit had continued to make impressive progress.

Impressive progress of neonatal care at Katima Hospital: routine use of open warming tables, continuous pulse oximetry monitoring and CPAP devices.



Mothers feed their sick babies through feeding tubes or by cup around the clock; nurses supervise them to make sure, that the prescribed volumes are administered.



All doctors' and nurses' notes are written by hand; Prof. Thomas M. Berger emphasized the importance of well-structured documentation.



Images from Africa

As usual, the mission report concludes with some images from scenes encountered outside of the hospital walls.



Bush fires in the Kavango East region (these fires typically occur from mid-August to October).

Donate and help babies survive

neo-for-namibia.org/donate



TWINT or Luzerner Kantonalbank
Postfach, 6002 Luzern, Switzerland
BIC/SWIFT LUKBCH2260A
IBAN CH75 0077 8206 2817 2200 1