During the November 2021 clinic of the TecateSmiles and the February 2022 clinics, 233 Patients with primary/secondary facial cleft deformities were screened and 74 facial reconstructive surgeries performed. Most of the pre-selection of cases was performed by SIF Communications Director, Sra. Leticia Gottwald and Dra. Macrina Bustos and set up to visit the clinic following Virtual Interviews with the scheduled surgeons and anesthesiologists coming to the mission. They were then assigned individual appointments at the following mission surgical clinic for the surgical week.

The host Rotary Clubs of Tecate and Los Cabos were again involved in that they hosted a welcome presentation allowing Dr. Moses’ team and provided airport transportation and daily coffee and lunches at the hospitals.

Dr. Moses was then able to present the $6,000 Rotary district Matching grant with the purchased equipment needed for the operations equipment updates from prior equipment inventory used for the Mission CaboSmiles on each clinic. Disposable Surgical supplies purchased by Foundation of Academy of Dentistry International FADI grants were pre-delivered by way of Customs and Shipping by Donated Amnian Cargo and Shipping Services company.

Currently, four total mission clinics lasting a week per visit are scheduled now in the first weeks of FEBRUARY 2022 and AUGUST 2022, for the CaboSmiles Mission and in the months of MAY 2022 and November 2022 for the TecateSmiles mission annually. These 4 clinics comprise the current clinics of the BAJA-SMILES MISSION PROJECT.

The CaboSmiles clinic covers the region of the entire Baja Sur, Mexico as the population of the region is only around one million persons with 250,000 living in Los Cabos and another 250,000 living in La Paz and the other half Million persons spread all the way Northwards to the Mulege-Loreto line 500 miles south of the USA Border. With the radio and television coverage of the clinic success and support, this clinic is expected to grow significantly over the coming year or two.

The Mission site for TecateSmiles covers the region of Baja Norte from the Mulege-Loreto line further North 500 miles to the USA border and spreading over the Mexico Mainland into the state of Sonora, MX. This project site covers a population of over one million persons from the Baja as well as Sonora regions. An estimated 200 thousand population of affected persons with facial cleft deformities live in this mission’s service reach. Fortunately, there are parallel missions in Ensenada, Mexico also founded by Rotarian/Surgeon, Dr. Moses and these missions help to control the underserviced patient load with their 4x/year clinics.

Current COVID Mission Surgical Protocol

A newly developed model for Mission Care in the face of COVID19 risk has been developed for treatment of essential babies helping them to feed and nurture through the provided surgeries on their primary cleft deformities. This protocol utilizes a remote screening process via the Internet with on-site appointment being given several weeks prior to the anticipated surgical team’s visit. The supporting Smiles Communication Director works together with a local surgeon who donates several individual appointments to visit with one the baby’s parents and preliminary photographs and exams are performed which are then sent to the Mission Leader, who in turn, holds a remote mission surgeon’s conference for selection of the cases based upon critical needs. Then, upon arrival to the mission site, the pre-selected babies and one of their parents are seen by individual appointment at the hospital with 10–15-minute intervals for just the surgeon and anesthesiologist for final approval and surgical scheduling.
During the surgical week, the baby and parent are admitted by appointment with a minimum of staff presence and administered a rapid COVID testing prior to being taken back for surgery.

Operating rooms protocols are with N95 filtration masks, and personnel are limited to essential workers. The medical volunteers were COVID PCR tested and everyone is confirmed completed on COVID Vaccinations with recovery time completed prior to arrival at the mission site.

Surgical Procedure:

This mission was supported in part by contributions from the Academy of Dentistry International Foundation as well as by personal donations and grants along with Rotary International, District 5340 and 4100 matching grants.

Report submitted in grateful Service,

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