



Best Doctors®



CASE STUDY

A NEW MODEL FOR REMOTE MEDICINE PROIVING ITS WORTH IN AFRICA



FUNDACIÓN RECOVER, HOSPITALS FOR AFRICA, is a non-profit organization which supports doctors in Africa by connecting them with volunteer specialists in Spain. The Medting™ platform, powered by Best Doctors®, is proving to be an essential tool for doctors in Cameroon and Spain to collaborate and is helping improve patient outcomes, especially on rare and challenging cases.

FUNDACIÓN RECOVER'S VISION

The less-developed countries of Africa do not have the level of specialist medical care that first world countries take for granted. In Cameroon, where Fundación Recover has launched its initiative, there are only 0.8 physicians for every 10,000 people (compared with 47 physicians for every 10,000 in Spain). Fundación Recover was founded to help bridge the gap between developed and developing countries, connecting physicians in Africa with specialists in Spain who can collaborate on diagnosis and treatment options. This not only benefits the African doctors but exposes the Spanish specialists to cases they might never encounter in Europe.

CAMEROON FACT:
21 MILLION
PEOPLE

CAMEROON FACT:
.8 PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000 PEOPLE

Source: World Health Organization website as of June 2014

FIRST WORLD RESOURCES VIA ANY INTERNET-CONNECTED COMPUTER

Before introducing Medting, Fundación Recover's Cameroon doctors and volunteer specialists in Spain had been using mail and email to exchange information – often a time-consuming, restrictive and cumbersome approach with the risk that information would be incomplete or that patient privacy would be compromised.

Since introducing Medting in 2010, Fundación Recover has streamlined the collaboration process and put specialist help and support facilities within reach of Cameroon doctors wherever they have access to the internet.

Medting's customizable structure and intuitive design make it a user-friendly and versatile tool for the collaborating doctors and also encourage them to share research and educational resources.

ENHANCED COLLABORATION PROCESS

The introduction of Medting has not only allowed quicker response times for Cameroon doctors but its state-of-the-art medical imaging capabilities have made it possible for the physicians to instantly share a wide range of diagnostic media.

The Spanish doctors can virtually connect with specialists from other disciplines and give fully-informed feedback and reviews, continuing to support the African doctors as cases progress.

As well as using Medting regularly for guidance on challenging cases, African doctors are using it to participate in a Madrid-based tumor board where they can access physicians in a wide range of specialties and sub-specialties that are beyond the resources of small African hospitals.

Clinical workgroups built through the platform are enthusiastically sharing knowledge, undertaking educational initiatives and circulating monthly medical research updates.

“Thanks to the Medting technology, we have been able to improve the speed and breadth of collaboration, and can bring the best medical knowledge to many more African doctors and patients.”

MACRINA CAMPS, MANAGER, FUNDACIÓN RECOVER

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ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT ADVANCED MEDICINE

Medting features that have transformed both the depth and scope of the collaboration process for Fundación Recover include:

- Web-based medical image repository
- Easy uploading of case information and details
- Asynchronous commenting negates scheduling and location conflicts
- Unique compatibility for viewing wide range of diagnostic image types including radiology (DICOM), pathology slides, EKG, echocardiogram, dermatology and ophthalmology
- Video player
- Instantaneous multi-language translation
- Clinical content search engine



A NEW LIFE FOR HELÈNE

Helène, who lives in Burkina Faso, had a condition that was making it hard to breathe, giving her pains in her chest and stomach, and depleting her of all energy. She couldn't sleep, couldn't go to school and couldn't manage normal daily tasks. No local doctors could help and they were unsure of the cause of this debilitating condition.

Fundación Recover connected Helène's doctor to specialists in Spain, and collaboration began through the Medting platform.

The specialist in Spain identified an arterial coronary valve problem that was causing the formation of clots in Helène's heart. She had three embolisms. The diagnosis was rheumatic mitral valve disease in a very advanced stage and, without intervention, Helène had a life expectancy of only another year to 18 months.

Through Fundación Recover and Best Doctors, Helène was transferred to Spain for life-saving surgery. She has now returned to school in Burkina and can plan the life ahead of her with new energy and confidence.

Hear Helène's story in her own words at: bestdoctors.com/helenestory

A MODEL FOR OTHER REMOTE OR UNDER-RESOURCED REGIONS

Best Doctors is proud to be able to facilitate this remarkable collaboration that improves outcomes for patients in Africa, helps enhance the knowledge of local doctors and creates a lasting knowledge base of shared case studies and research.

The principles of the Fundación Recover collaboration are a wonderful example of how the innovative Medting platform can transform clinical practice and shrink the geographical and advantage gap between countries, or even between cities and remote regions.

CLINICAL COLLABORATION, SIMPLIFIED

Medting, powered by Best Doctors, harnesses the latest technology to expand physicians' access to knowledge and shared understanding so they can give their patients the very best care.

Collaboration with peers and colleagues

Medting makes it simple to confer with peers on challenging cases, bringing their knowledge and experience to the online forum. The collaboration can include just a few doctors or a larger team of experts.

Simple, confidential sharing of diagnostic information

Uploading and sharing the patient's diagnostic tests is simple – photographs, x-rays, laboratory results and other information can then be displayed for live discussion or comment and stored as a case library. Physicians' written responses can be captured for the patient's medical record. All data and discussions are completely secure.

Optimum patient outcomes

Any specific questions on diagnosis or treatment can be addressed to the physician who is most likely to have expert insight – you can confer with more than one specialist for different elements of the problem or for a second or third opinion. This kind of collaborative approach is more likely to result in the best course of action for your patient, especially where the case is a recurrent, complex or rare condition.

Backed by Best Doctors resources

With 25 years' experience in connecting doctors to specialist support, Best Doctors is well-versed in bringing physicians together. Already, there are thousands of physicians in dozens of countries using Medting for either individual patient cases or for ongoing group discussions to advance their knowledge.

Find out more about the user-friendly way to access world-leading experts and collaborate on challenging cases.

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