

Hanoi Vietnam 20.11.2017 – 24.11.2017

In November 2017, Professor Simon Kay and the Leeds team visited the Viet Duc Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam for their second trip. Sarah Taplin (physiotherapist) and Rob Bains (Consultant Plastic Surgeon) accompanied Professor Kay for the 5-day trip. As usual, the team in Hanoi continue to show an eagerness to upskill and address a very substantial healthcare issue (brachial plexus injury) in a society that has few resources, a high incidence of that injury, and poor health infrastructure but at the same time, are capable of developing sophisticated solutions.

In a new clinic, 120 patients were seen with mostly brachial plexus interspersed with children's hand anomalies and a few general plastic surgery cases. Over the next few days, the team operated on 6 adult brachial plexus cases, 4 children's hand surgery cases and 5 OBP cases. They also undertook one free tissue transfer as well as a wide range of primary repairs, nerve transfers and a range of tendon transfers.



The team was very impressed at the abilities of the local team, their eagerness to learn, and the surgical and nursing support. There remain challenges however, in terms of structure, the lack of physiotherapy and splinting, as well as the absence of detailed follow up and therapy support.

