

Eye Camp for Afghan Refugees at Jaluzai and Azakhel, Peshawar District, N.W.F.P.

Pages with reference to book, From 130 To 130

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The first every eye camp for the Afghan refugees was recently inaugurated in Jaluzai Peshawar District by the Federal Minister of Health, Government of Pakistan.

Organized by Pakistan Medicos International the camp at Jaluzai, complete with facilities for out patient, beds and operation theatre started functioning from 2 February 1982 in tents pegged in the midst of the refugee camp. This, as the Afghan Refugee Commissioner pointed out, brought medical help to the refugees right to their doorsteps.

The need for the camp was obvious from the number of people who turned up for help. Most of the cases seen as out-patients had trachoma-one of the major cause of blindness all over the third world. However, in the case of cataracts other were less than had been expected.

Out patients were provided with glasses and medicines according to their needs.

As patient non-cooperation had been expected operation procedure was intensified and 80 virgin silk sutures were employed and corneal wounds were secured with as much as five stitches. As a result of the extra care only two cases had capsular extraction, where the central part of the pupil was cleared by removing pieces of broken capsule. Argus intracapsular forceps, pressure and counter pressure technique was used for lens extraction.

Post operative complications were negligible. There was only one allergic reaction to Atropine drops which was controlled by Dexamethasone eye drops. Operative patients were taken care of for five days with bandage being removed every day and doctors and technicians constantly in attendance. An ambulance was always at hand.

All operations at this camp were successful with no post-operative complications. For the duration of the camp the small government hospital was for the first time, full of patients both indoor and as out-patients.

A similar camp was held at another Peshawar site at Azakhel where in addition to tents the facilities provided by the Pirpai Government Hospital adjacent to the refugee camp were utilized for operations and post operative cases.

In addition to the team of eye specialists from Karachi, Dr. Murad of Peshawar Lady Reading Hospital kindly lent one of his house surgeons for out-patient work at the Jaluzai camp, and also provided operation tables.

Table

Report of Cases seen in the Eye Camp held for Afghan Refugees

	<i>Camp Zaluzai 2-2-82 to 10-2-82</i>	<i>Camp Azakhel 11-2-82 to 22-2-82</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male patients	914	650	1,564
Female patients	450	200	650
Children	100	50	150
Glasses	224	57	281
Total	1,688	957	2,645
Extra Ocular Disease:			
1. Trachomas			
(a) Follicular stage	450	350	800
(b) Pannus.	125	75	200
(c) Ent./Trichiases	10	20	30
2. Conjunctivitis	435	240	675
3. Pterygium	65	65	130
4. Chalazion	10	4	14
5. Keratopathy	13	6	19
6. Others	—	37	37
Intra Ocular Disease			
Cataract	70	25	95
Glaucomas	5	2	7
Iridocyclitis	4	4	8
Tumours	2	1	3
Vit/Opacities	2	2	4
Retinal Disease	15	10	25
Vit. Deficiencies	5	6	11
Squints	10	8	18
Normal	55	45	100
Minor Operations			
Pterygium	26	12	38
Entropion	3	1	4
Chalazion	—	1	1
Foreign Body	1	2	3
Trachoma Scraping	6	5	11
Major Operations			
Cataract	58	17	75
Glaucomas	4	2	6
Dacryo Cystectomy	3	1	4
Optical Iredectomy	6	3	9
Iridectomy	2	2	4
Total Operations	109	46	155