International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
COMMITTEE FOR GENITAL FISTULA AND GENITAL TRAUMA
CHAIR – PROFESOR AJAY RANE OAM,
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OBSTETRIC FISTULAS
An obstetric fistula is an abnormal connection from the vagina extending to either the bladder or rectum, or both, as a result of obstructed or prolonged labour.
Prevalence

- Affects over 2 million women worldwide
- Predominantly in third world settings
- Up to 4 cases per 1,000 births
- Estimated incidence of 100,000 annually
End Fistula Campaign Target Countries
Those who develop fistulas spend on average 3.8 days in labour, some up to a week.

Women are often ostracised by their community due to constant urinary and/or faecal incontinence.

Psychological effects.

High maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.
Prevention

– Is vital!
– Fistulas are rare in developed countries due to antenatal care, and access to Caesarean sections when complications arise
Prevention

– Improving access to emergency obstetric care
– Increasing availability of planned Caesarean sections
– Improving access to antenatal care
– Education
– Empowering women
– Training more skilled birth attendants
– Improve nutrition to limit growth deficiencies
– Avoiding early marriage
– Avoiding early teenage pregnancy
– Family planning
Treatment

– Surgical repair
– 80-90% cure rate depending on severity
– Yet 90% are left untreated
– Treatment capacity is only around 15,000 per year for the ~100,000 new patients requiring it
– Many are unaware it is curable, are too far away or cannot afford surgery
– However there is free treatment available
– Transport is an ongoing issue in developing nations
Our Goals

• Create a world fistula map in collaboration with NGOs like Direct Relief and get an inventory of all centres performing corrective surgery on a large scale

• Create a world surgical database of surgeons who perform high volume fistula corrective surgery

• Continue with our fistula training program

• Help co ordinate channeling of resources to appropriate units
Educational PICTOGRAPHS