Saving lives and enhancing medical education in war-torn countries through a pioneering telemedicine charitable trust

Dr Waheed Arian, Dr Elizabeth Joekes

Purpose:
The charity template demonstrates that using simple technology, we can provide remote life-saving emergency healthcare advice and teaching in conflict zones, such as Afghanistan. It also demonstrates that valuable medical lessons can be learnt by UK medics from interesting emergency cases seen in war zones.

Methods and materials:
A tele-health charitable trust is run by a clinical radiology specialist registrar in the UK with the help of volunteer UK specialists. The charity teaches and advises medical colleagues in Afghanistan using web-based video-conferencing and mobile phones.

Results:
Dozens of lives are reported to have been saved at the Kabul hospitals taking part. Healthcare in Afghanistan and other conflict zones is very basic, despite local doctors’ hard work and dedication. Using technology, the charity exhibits that world-class medical knowledge in the UK can be offered to emergency patients thousands of miles away.

Reflecting on this collaboration, the charity also demonstrates that valuable medical lessons can be learnt by UK medics from interesting cases seen in war zones.

Conclusion:
Following its success in Afghanistan, the charity is now expanding to Africa with the help of more UK specialist volunteers. The charity also demonstrates that valuable medical lessons can be learnt by UK medics from interesting emergency cases seen in war zones with clinical radiology being the centre point.

There is an increasing demand for world-class medical advice in conflict zones. Due to safety reasons, the only solution is tele-health to provide such help, which is proven through this charity model.

Contact: www.ariantele-heal.com