

Dear EBCOG Executives,

I would like to thank you for the great opportunity to experience my first training in Perinatology through EBCOG Fellowships programs .

During my 3-month training in Cerrahpasa University Hospital in Istanbul, Turkey ,which I completed on the 2nd of December 2013 , I worked closely with Prof. MD. Cihat Sen and MD. Mehmet Aytaç Yuksel, who was completing his perinatology sub-specialty.

On a daily basis, while closely cooperating with Prof. MD. Cihat and MD. Yuksel, I had the opportunity to perform several ultrasound examinations on various patients. More specifically, while working with Prof. MD. Cihat I assisted his work on twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and twin reverse arterial perfusion cases . Their treatment consisted in two main phases: Operating Room treatment which consisted in fetoscopic coagulation of abnormal placental vessels , fetoscopic cord coagulation and Post-Surgery (Post-OR) treatment according to approved (universal) guidelines with Doppler flow studies in the first, third and sixth hour after the OR treatment. Some other conditions I worked on included: first trimester screening for aneuploidy , prenatal diagnosis , Doppler studies in the first and second trimester ,second trimester screening , various CNS anomalies , Cardiovascular anomalies , GDM ,Pre-eclampsia and gestational HTA, management of intrauterine growth retardation ,management of oligohydramnios , Rh incompatibility and intrauterine perfusion , urinary tract anomalies , hydrops fetalis etc.

The knowledge obtained during my training period helped me further develop my skills in ultrasound examination and in perinatal treatment. Having a good knowledge of Turkish language was of great advantage to me as it enabled me to better communicate with patients and to thoroughly complete ultrasound reports of perinatology. I was even able to participate in some lectures held by the professors in the Medical School of Cerrahpasa University to currently enrolled students in the specialty program. I really enjoyed those lectures and it helped me to be fully integrated with other medical interns at Cerrapasa University Hospital.

The referral system used in Turkey had many meeting points with the referral system we currently use in Albania. In cases when during a treatment there was required a consult from another specialty such as nephrology, cardiology, pneumology etc. the patient was sent for further special examination or analysis in the respective department. In case when the diagnosis indicated for an interruption of the pregnancy and the patient agreed to that, the procedure was not carried out unless the full set of analysis were carried out ,ex. karyotyping ,TORCH ,parvovirus ,RMI etc. The main purpose of these analysis was to have a more reliable determination of the diagnosis, to take preventive measures for future pregnancies and for research purposes in that field. However, in Albania not all the above mentioned analysis are performed in all cases of voluntary pregnancy interruption ,for various reasons like financial obstacles , lack of access to these kinds of examination and the necessary expertise ,for instance a fetoscopic laser coagulation of abnormal placental vessels is hardly ever performed.

Turkish social norms widely allowed marriages among cousins, which in some cases resulted in abnormality in fetus development. Despite these abnormalities, often patients refused to have a volunteer pregnancy interruption, completely disregarding the gravity of the anomalies and not taking preventive measures for future pregnancies ,and this is of course a family decision to respect .

In conclusion, I would say that I benefited a lot from this training in increasing my knowledge and further developing my skills in perinatal medicineNow I have the opportunity to put into practice what I learned in Cerrahpasa University Hospital and share the whole experience in Turkey with my

Albanian colleagues. In this way, I will not be the only one benefiting from this training, but also the hospital I work in and the whole Albanian medical system.

I would love to have future cooperation with EBCOG ... in the framework of knowledge and experience exchange building so a connecting link between European and Albanian medical practices. Hoping in a betterment of the Albanian medical system in following the steps of the European medical practices, especially in the Perinatal field.

I would like to thank you once more for the great opportunity offered!

Regards,

Orgeta Maci