

First report 'FREE EAR CAMP 2019 - HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL'

February 14, 2019

The PAKISTAN Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. team from GERMANY will be holding the 3rd FREE EAR CAMP in the HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL from the 9th to the 21st of February.

As in the case of the last camp in October / November 2017, the goal in the past years is to examine patients who are supplied with hearing aids, if necessary carry out repairs, clean the hearing aids, adapt new hearing aids, then examine new patients and supply hearing aids.

Thanks to generous donations hearing aids and money, this year it will be possible to provide hearing-impaired children with power hearing aids.

In two events we will inform principals and teachers, then parents and relatives about the proper handling of the hearing impaired.

In our reports from this year's camp, we put children at the center whom we could help with hearing aids and open up a perspective.

Nabeela

The six-year Nabeela we have seen for the first time. Their measured hearing curve would not be sufficient, even though they were supplied with a hearing aid for developing a sound language. The observations during the examination and the reports of the mother showed that the child is attentive, mentally flexible and fast-learning despite her limitations. She observes lip movements and imitates them. She does not go to school.



Only with a cochlear implant surgery she could be helped. If there are no funds available for such an expensive treatment.

In the afternoon, Prof. Dr. Safdar Nawaz Malik visited the hospital to find out what the FREE EAR CAMP team is doing. Dr. Idrees Awan had been able to recruit him as ENT specialist for the HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL. He witnesses how the team informs the mother of Nabeela that she can not be helped with hearing aids.

And then Prof. Malik informs us about a newly launched government program, which allows children with severe hearing impairment free Cochlear Implant surgery and the required rehabilitation phase.

A 'fallen from the sky' surprise that will open up completely new possibilities for the team and the HASHIM WELFARE HOSPITAL. We quickly decide that we will suggest Nabeela to be the first patient for a cochlear implant surgery. When we inform the mother about this possibility, she cries with joy and gratitude.



Nabeela gets a hearing aid adapted. When the first sounds reach her ear, she can not assign them and seems confused. After about 10 minutes, it was eye-opening, then soon after a smile followed.

Now she will face a long learning process before, and she will have to understand what the new auditory impressions mean.

Arshan Nadeem





It took the special skill of Hans Buerstein to persuade the frightened two-year-old Arshan to accept the headphones for the hearing measurement.

When confidence was established, measurements showed moderate to severe hearing loss. The decision was to unilaterally supply him with a powerful hearing aid this year.

The control measurement next year will determine whether bilateral hearing aid delivery can be helpful.

Talbiya

For 3 years we know the eight-year-old Talbiya from previous Free Ear Camps. The supply of hearing aids has improved her hearing. Talbiya visits a deaf school. In speech therapy she learned to shape sounds. She speaks several words and writes fluently. If you ask her to write down the days of the week, she writes fluently.



Hans Buerstein could inform the mother that Talbiya is another candidate for a possible CI operation.

More with the second and final report.

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