

NEWS RELEASE

TRISTEL PTY LTD SUPPORTS ULTRASOUND OUTREACH TO REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

September 2017

The Summer Institute of Linguistics is a worldwide not-for-profit organization with a focus on studying, developing and documenting languages, as well as having a humanitarian focus. Tristel Pty Ltd was asked to support an outreach program for two weeks in early July, 2017 in the remote setting of Ukarumpa in Papua New Guinea. Richard Noy (sonographer), who approached Tristel, stated that the program was to be run by two doctors, an OB/GYN and radiologist in an effort to upskill local medical professionals while maintaining high standards of care and hygiene. There are a number of communicable diseases within the local community such as HPV, TB, Hep B/C and HIV, and there are currently no formal disinfection policies in place for ultrasound.

Ukarumpa's remote location means it is difficult to access appropriate disinfection and sterilization products for medical devices. As a result, medical professionals are often limited in the procedures that they can complete. Ultrasound is an essential tool in acute illness, trauma and pregnancy, both to guide treatment and to evaluate whether to provide medical evacuation for patients (both local and ex-pats) to Cairns for more intensive medical care. Furthermore, professionals often do not have the ability to complete ultrasound and continue their professional development.



Tristel provided a box of the Tristel Trio50 Wipes System for ultrasound disinfection. During the two-week visit, a number of volunteers and patients underwent scanning, including approximately 10 TV scans. As the current practice is to use alcohol wipes (which are readily available, but damage ultrasound transducers and are not effective against all microorganisms) the Tristel Trio50 Wipes System ensured that the medical team were not transmitting infectious organisms to volunteers and/or patients. Richard stated that the Tristel Trio50 Wipes System was 'perfect for a low turnover of TV scans as there [was] no waste of chemicals and the wipes last[ed] for a long time unopened'.

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Overall, the program was considered to be a success; the doctors were extremely grateful for the education and training that they were given. The medical team noted a greatly improved ability to perform eFAST scans, upper abdominal, paediatric and obstetric scans. Most importantly, scanning could be completed with the assurance that the transducers were disinfected to the highest level possible.

Another follow up trip is to be planned for next year to continue teaching, and extend the skill set of the medical team. The local doctors were impressed with the ease of use of Tristel Trio50 Wipes System, and it is hoped they will be adopted to the clinic for probe disinfection.



Tristel would like to extend a special thankyou to Richard Noy for the photos and information, and to the volunteers, doctors and health staff of the Ukarumpa for their support and hard work.

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