

RIA'S STORY

Ria is 9 years old. She was born with a rare condition called bladder exstrophy which means that the bladder is open on the front of the abdomen. She was constantly leaking urine from her abdomen and could never be dry. Throughout her childhood she had to wear a thick pad to stop the urine dripping. She could not wear nice clothes or play properly with her friends. She would never be able to marry

Her parents took her to a Medical College where two operations were attempted to correct the problem. Unfortunately both failed, and the bladder burst open again. Ria's family could not afford any more surgery.

One day they heard that there was a visiting surgeon at CHC who was a specialist in Paediatric Surgery and could perhaps cure this condition. Ria came to CHC to see the doctor, who advised that surgery was possible, but that it would be a major operation, taking many hours and would have the risk of several complications. She advised Ria's parents to consider carefully and the doctors at CHC helped to explain everything to them.

After long discussions, the operation was planned and done at CHC. It took more than 4 hours and Ria spent 2 weeks in hospital afterwards. The nurses at CHC, who had no previous experience with this operation or condition, looked after Ria very carefully and well, and her recovery was very good. On the day she was discharged, she was able to wear new clothes for the first time and was very happy.

WITH OT TEAM ON DAY OF DISCHARGE



Now she is at home and doing fine. She came back to CHC after 6 months to see the surgeon again for a check up and everything is going well. It is hoped she will have a happy and successful future, and even get married, although she will need to see the doctors from time to time. Ria is an example of a CHC patient who has benefited from the regular overseas visiting surgical teams which visit CHC.

MY NEW CLOTHES



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FROM CHOKORIA TO CLC



15 years old Md Pervez is a leprosy patient with multiple deformity. His father Md Ismail is a farmer and his mother is a housewife named Musammot Mohamuda, from .Minikpur village of Chokoria Upazila under the Coxes Bazar district.

Five years ago he found some anesthetic skin lesions on his body, and developed anesthesia on the sole of his foot. He went to show a doctor at Chokoria Health Complex, was suspected to be a leprosy patient and was referred to Lama Health Complex which is run by The Leprosy Mission. He was diagnosed as multi-bacillary type of leprosy and started on MDT (Leprosy treatment). But he didn't take his treatment regularly – as a result the disease got worse and he developed an ulcer on his right foot. Then he went back to Lama Health Complex and was referred to CLC for proper treatment of his severe ulcer.

But already it was too late because multiple deformities were affecting his whole body. He was recently selected for surgery to try and correct the deformities during the reconstructive leprosy surgical camp in October 2009, but unfortunately he developed an active ulcer which is a contraindication for surgery. So still he waits, and still he hopes one day he will be cured by surgery.

HOPE? HOPE? HOPE?

