THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF
HAND SURGERY
AT HUE CENTRAL HOSPITAL

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Introduction of Hue Central Hospital

- The oldest and the first occidental hospital in Vietnam, established in 1894.
- 2030-bed polyclinic general hospital, considered as “Friendly and Excellent” hospital & officially ranked as “Special grade” hospital.
- One of the three biggest hospitals in Vietnam, the leading hospital of Central Area of Vietnam and the principle reference hospital of central region as well as the whole country.
- Teaching hospital of Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy & local nursing schools.
- Official national post-graduate medical training programs including the second degree of specialty of Orthopaedics.
HCH Fact Sheet (2012)

- Total beds: 2,030 beds
- Provides health care services for over 15,312,000 population of the central of VN
- Outpatients: 350,000/year
- Inpatients: 85,000/year
- Surgical operations: approximately 25,000/year
- Responsibility to coordinate regional and national plans for applying and practicing new clinical methodology, provide training and technological transfer to all hospitals in the central area of VN.

The development of a specialty at Hue Central Hospital has certain significant influences on that kind of specialty to all hospitals in the Central Area.
Background

Before 1990s: Hand Surgery: a few emergency procedures
• Special utilization of HCH, orthopaedic surgeons go abroad to learn Orthopaedic, Plastic, Microsurgery & Hand Surgery: → new techniques to solve many problems of the hand
Background

1992 to 2002, cooperation with hand surgery teams came from USA, France, Germany, Belgium, especially Australia hand team (Prof Conolly): Promote hand surgery. In 2002, many surgeons have been able to perform almost all basic techniques and some high-tech procedures of hand surgery. More and more hand patients treated: the base to establish the new hand unit inside the Department of Orthopaedics, HCH
Establishment of Hand Surgery at HCH

On May, 11, 2002, the first official hand unit in Vietnam, Hand Unit of Hue Central Hospital have been established including 10 beds inside the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery with 3 hand surgeons.

All the members of the "hand team" including surgeons, nurses, and therapists work together to take care of patients.
Line of action of Hand Unit

• **Treatment:** hand patients are taken care by an inter-department team acting harmoniously. Surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists make together a plan of treatment and follow-up for every patient during the time of treatment inside as well as outside hospital.

• **Training and improving quality of treatment:** Arranging regular M&M meetings for all members of hand team to draw experiences from all clinical cases, arranging regular learning meetings and workshops relating to hand treatment, developing some new techniques of hand surgery with the assistance of foreign colleagues.

• **Research:** Perform some team plans to study some popular problems of hand surgery and hand therapy met in Hue.

• **International cooperation:** Continue and strengthen the cooperation with all international hand teams.
Development of Hand Surgery at HCH

The first Hand Unit (2002)
- 10 beds,
- 3 surgeons,
- 389 hand surgeries/year

The current Department of Plastic and Hand Surgery (2012)
- 40 beds,
- 8 surgeons,
- 900 hand surgeries/year
Facts contributing to the development of Hand Surgery at HCH

Establishment and to put into action the tele-diagnostic system with the Sydney and St. Luke’s’ Hand Unit in December 2002 to help local surgeons learning the experiences of Australian experts on every difficult clinical hand case.
Facts contributing to the development of Hand Surgery at HCH

Recruitment of new surgeons and sending many of them overseas to attend conferences and to be trained in the field of plastic surgery, microsurgery and hand surgery. Local hand surgeons were trained both orthopaedic and plastic surgery and are able to perform many new techniques and to solve more and more problems in the field of hand surgery.
Facts contributing to the development of Hand Surgery at HCH

Hand Surgery Unit has been hosting many international hand surgeons came from Australia, America and Europe. They have visited and worked as visiting hand surgeons. During these occasions, local surgeons have learned a lot about hand surgery knowledge from basic to advance; shared clinical experiences, and improved skill in the field of hand surgery and kept them up to date.
Nine Australian-Vietnamese courses on hand surgery with clinic sessions, live demonstration surgery sessions, workshop sessions, and lecture sessions have been organized at Hue Central Hospital for around 50 surgeons who practice hand surgery in Central Area and throughout VN.
Daily Surgical Procedures: Joint & bone procedures

- Open Reduction
- Internal fixation
- External fixation
Daily Surgical Procedures: Cogenital hand procedures

- Syndactily
- Polydactily
- Ring costriction
- Radial club hand
Daily Surgical Procedures: Skin graft & local flaps

Skin graft

Z plasties

Cross finger flap

Kite flap
Daily Surgical Procedures: Pedicle & free flaps

- Groin flap
- Radial forearm flap
- Ulnar dorsal flap
- Free flap
Daily Surgical Procedures: Tendon procedures

- Tenolysis
- Tendon repair
- Tendon graft
- Two stage tendon repair
Daily Surgical Procedures: Nerve procedures

- Carpal Tunnel Release
- Nerve repair
- Nerve graft
- Mennen end-to-side nerve grafts
Daily Surgical Procedures: Tendon transfers

Riodan transfers

Radial palsy tendon transfer

Bunnell transfers
Daily Surgical Procedures: Muscle transfers

- LD functional muscle transfer
- Steindler transfer
- Trapezius transfer
- Free Gracilis functioning muscle transfer
Daily Surgical Procedures: Free fibular transfer
Daily Surgical Procedures: Thumb reconstructions

Thumb reconstruction

Pollicization

Thumb replantation

Toe to thumb & finger transfer
Daily Surgical Procedures: Replantation
Conclusion

• Hue Central Hospital has officially started with hand surgery since 2002. Since then, the number of operations as well as the number of techniques has been growing up year by year. Up to now the total number of procedures of hand surgery is about 900 per year with an appropriate result. The development of hand surgery at Hue has put also a positive influence to the improvement of the hand surgery service’s quality throughout the Central Area of Vietnam.