

WALK

OPERATION WALK PITTSBURGH

granting the wish to walk

Operation Walk Pittsburgh is a not-for-profit volunteer medical service program that provides free surgical treatment to patients with disabling arthritis in developing countries. Operation Walk also educates in-country orthopaedic surgeons, nurses, physical therapists and other health care professionals on the treatments, processes and surgical techniques for diseases of the hip and knee.

Operation Walk Pittsburgh
Day 6: August 26, 2009

Today was the first non-surgical day since arriving in Guatemala. After three and a half days of operating, the team was able to replace 63 hip and knee joints! The operating room staff took great pride in the long hours worked and the number of Guatemalan people they helped. However, there was no rest for the weary as they had to re-pack all of the surgical equipment and implants to ship back to be used by another Operation Walk team on a future trip.



The operating room staff prepares to load and ship left over equipment.

With the surgeries completed, the primary task became focusing on the post-operative care of the patients. The surgeons made rounds on all the patients they had operated on over the last few days.



Dr. Mike Weiss and Duane Chess check on a patient.



Dr. Tony DiGioia greets a patient.

Incisions were checked...



Tracy Brnusak and Janice Harmon check an incision.

...and all dressings were replaced with clean bandages.



Tom Maidens changes a dressing.

This afternoon team members were finally able to explore the quaint town of Antigua and its many unique shops and picturesque views.



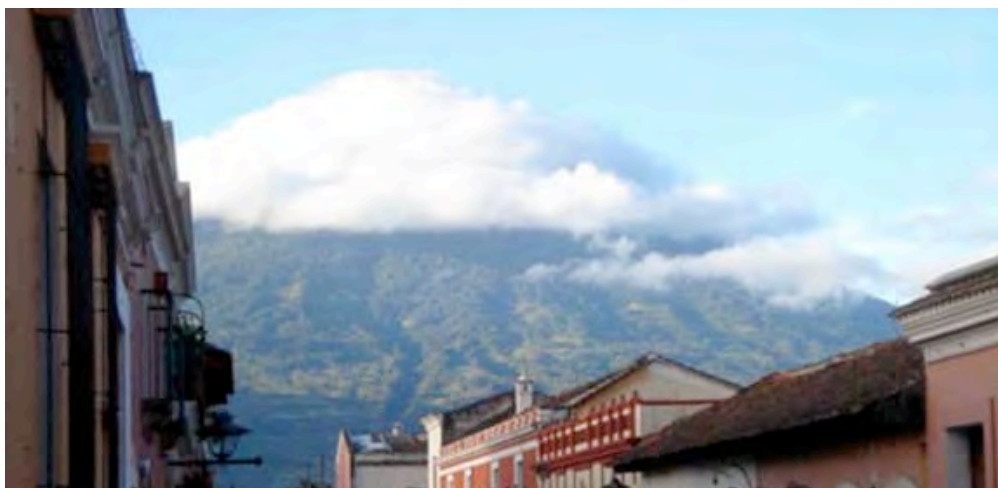
Antigua, Guatemala

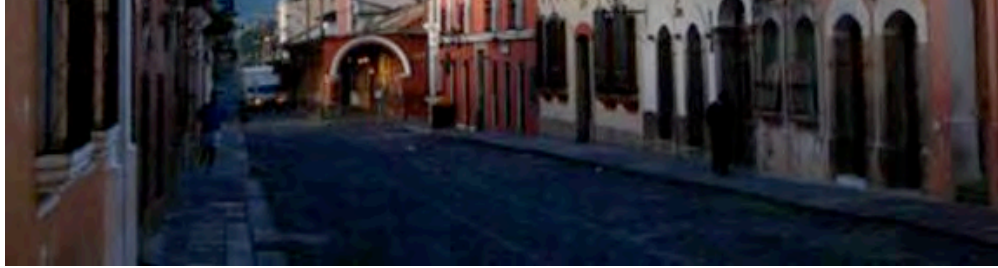
Although the hours have been long, there isn't a single team member who hasn't been touched by the kindness and gratitude shown by the people here (and more than a few team members have also been touched by a bit of "upset stomach" associated with travel to foreign countries!).

Tomorrow will be another busy day of post-operative care, along with multiple physical therapy sessions, in preparation of sending patients home to begin a new life free of hip and knee pain.

Each one of the Operation Walk Pittsburgh team members extends thoughts to friends and loved ones back home. They can't wait to see all of everyone in a few days and to give a firsthand account of all the wonderful things that were seen and done here.

But for now... we say *Adios!* from Antigua, Guatemala.





Antigua, Guatemala

More photos are posted on our website [here](#).

For more information about how to support Operation Walk Pittsburgh or to make a tax deductible donation, please visit www.operationwalkpgh.org.



We look forward to hearing from you! To contact us, please email us at info@operationwalkpgh.org. Please do not reply to this email!

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