Haiti Symposium:
Northwestern’s Medical Response

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What We Saw in the ER

• We got there 3 weeks post earthquake
• Patients we were getting
  – Lots of wound infections
What We Saw in the ER

• Some patients with 3 week old fractures (not seen by doctors yet)
What We Saw in the ER

– Many injuries due to reconstruction (the entire city was moving sharp rubble retrieving their stuff)
Haiti’s Normal Emergencies: Typhoid, Malaria, Tetanus, Appendicitis
What We Saw in the ER
What We Did in the ER

- Incision and Drainages
- Wound Debridements
- Shoulder Relocations with Ketamine only
- Delivered Babies
- Removed Foreign Bodies that we normally don’t
- Diagnosed with Physical Exam only
- Did repeat exams every 1-2 hours
- Used the Ultrasound machine more than ever
What We Did in the ER - 1

- Things we would never do here
What We Did in the ER - 2

4 month old baby
Had vomiting and diarrhea for 3 days
What We Did in the ER - 2

Respiratory Rate 80
Heart Rate 175
Dry
What We Did in the ER - 2

Lethargic Nurses, including a NICU nurse, unable to get IV
Intraosseous IV placed
Baby got IV fluid resuscitated
Saw baby 2 days later in peds tent
Smiling
What We Did in the ER - 2

Baby got IV fluid resuscitated
Saw baby 2 days later in pediatrics tent
Smiling and sent home
85 year old Female
  – Median age: 20 yrs old
  – Life Expectancy: 61 yrs old
Agonal Breathing at 3 x/min
  – Shallow slow breaths
Carried in by son
Realizations of Some of the Crazy Things We Do in Our Healthcare System

- How we approach End of Life
- Why we die at hospitals
- What we want from our healthcare providers
Life Moves On in Haiti
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