

# 2008-2009 Patients' Treatments and Progress Update (Part I)



Layak Kureshi, 8 years old Polio-patient from Aurangabad in Maharashtra

This boy lives with his family in what is considered in India a 'smaller town' Aurangabad. The population of this rural town of Maharashtra is at least 4Mio people. Layak was brought to us, by word of mouth from relatives who live in Mumbai and heard about our project of *Free Correctional Surgery*.

Layak suffers from deformities in both legs due to Polio. His muscle power was very low giving him just enough strength to stand up, but unable to walk. Dr. Desai examined him and scheduled two stages of surgery, which were both carried out and went well. Layak had to lie in the hospital for some time with casts on both legs from hips on down.

In the picture to the left he is seen with his father a couple of months after removal of the casts. Layak responded well to the treatment and some sessions of therapy gave to him an extra boost. Our Ortho-technician then took measurements and made a special lightweight caliper with a pelvic band as well as shoes attached to it. This was done really well and was a perfect fit. Layak is getting slowly used to his new equipment. It is heartwarming to see the little fellow start moving around on his own! In the meantime, Layak with his daddy, have returned to their native place.

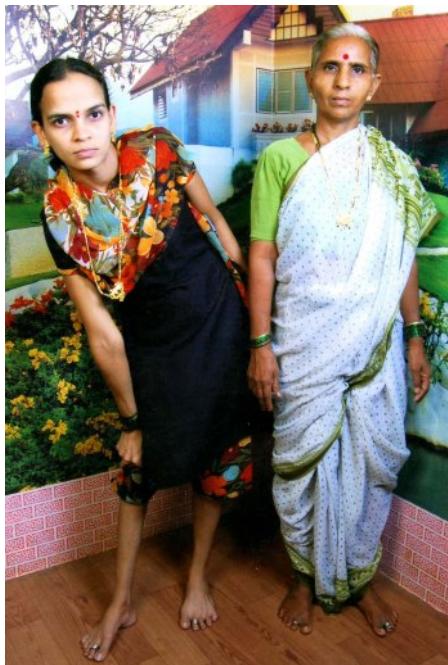


Reshma Tambe, 27 years old Polio patient from Malad in Mumbai

Reshma suffers from moderate disability, due to Poliomyelitis contracted in her infancy. In the picture to the left she is seen with her mother. Reshma has to support her left leg, not only with every step she walks, but while she is standing as well, in order for her leg not to cave in. Moving around is difficult for her. She mostly stays at home helping her family with household chores. Her family is quite poor and live in one of the bigger slum areas of suburban Mumbai.

As usual the case in such patients, there is a multistage surgery/release operations needed, i.e. in hip, knee and foot. Reshma received the main correctional surgery in her left knee. Her operations went well and correction of deformity in the left knee has been achieved. Another operation is left to do. She will also need extra Physiotherapy, after which a checkup will determine if a walking aid/caliper could be a help to her.

12/2009 Update: Reshma completed treatment and is now walking well. Thanks to improved mobility, she got an office job in her native town of Ratnagiri offered, where she happily moved to and settled down since.



Aditya Ganpatil(8), Progress and Problem of Osteogenesis Imperfecta

Aditya has a serious sickness, disability called 'Osteogenesis Imperfecta'. As explained earlier, in such a child's body due to a genetic disorder the bones are not forming properly. Instead of a healthy and strong bone, too much tissue and cartilage are being produced, causing an imbalance, usually all over the body. When a little child begins to walk, the legs start getting bent and crippled. Disfigurement is mostly seen in the legs, though the problem persists all over the body. This is a lifelong condition, which in some cases lessens with time. But there is no relying on this. Good diet and nutrition can help, but life expectancy of such patients is said to be 30-40 years.

When Aditya went in for four stages of surgeries, Dr. Desai explained about the seriousness of his problem, yet everyone hoped for a lasting progress. This happened in part only. In the picture left, we see Aditya after some of the surgeries, his legs became straight. The thighs remained in good condition to this day. However in the lower parts, again crippling took place after a few months, as is seen in the picture on the right. This is caused due to the presence of Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which causes many, many micro fractures taking place in his bones. This makes it very difficult to achieve a lasting improvement. Even walking aids and calipers cannot prevent such micro fractures to recur.

At a checkup Dr. Desai suggested waiting for six months and then reevaluate his case. We do hope, together with the parents that his condition will stabilize somewhat, so that he can get further help. Aditya is a nice, alert boy. His father Ramesh is a rickshaw driver and brings him daily to the nearby public school.

