

## **Cranial surgery on infant in Chisinau successful**

International team of medical doctors intends further cranioplastic surgeries in Moldova

It was a special day for doctors and health professionals in the Republic of Moldova: On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 an international and Moldovan team of medical doctors of the International Anesthesia Teaching Center (IATC) conducted a cranioplastic surgery in Chisinau/Moldova for the first time. The cranial surgery on a one-year-old infant has been successful.

The little boy suffered from a deformation of his cranium since his birth. If the surgical intervention is not conducted at an early stage, it can cause a mental disability. During the surgery in the state hospital "Center of Mother and Child", which took more than six hours, parts of the cranium were removed and placed back again in a new position to allow the brain to develop normally.



For this difficult surgery the Moldovan surgeons and anesthesiologist were supported by colleagues from Germany, Switzerland and Italy, who came to Moldova specifically for the surgery. At the same time, the international doctors brought necessary medical equipment to Chisinau, which is not available due to a general lack in hospital infrastructure in Moldova.



The cranioplastic surgery was conducted on the initiative of the IATC. Since 2007 the IATC has been operating in Moldova and aims to improve the anesthesia in the local hospitals. In the past three years, 31 used and eleven new anesthesia machines have been brought to Moldova that are now used during operations.

The cranioplastic surgery demonstrates an additional important step towards the improvement of further training for the Moldovan doctors. Led by the principle "Save Anesthesia, Safe Surgery", the voluntary doctors consult and train their Moldovan colleagues to ensure that also in Moldova – one of the poorest countries in Europe – European safety standards for anesthesia are applied

It is planned to conduct cranioplastic operations that consider modern safety standards in Moldova regularly. At first the operations are to be supported by the international team of doctors. On the long-run, however, the IATC strives for self-contained operations by the Moldovan doctors. For this purpose the appropriate medical equipment needs to be available in Moldova permanently.



Beside the general improvement of medical standards, the activities and the commitment of the IATC also aim to strengthen the relationship between experts and institutions in the medical field in Europe.

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