

Research Assessment #9

Date: 8 February 2019

Subject: Rapid Heart Imaging Technique in Developing World

MLA Citation:

“Rapid Heart Imaging Technique May Cut Costs, Boost Care in Developing World.”

ScienceDaily, ScienceDaily, 29 Aug. 2018,

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180829115624.htm.

Author: American Heart Association

Assessment: A new rapid imaging protocol quickly and cheaply diagnosed heart ailments in patients in Peru

As I have continued to work on the Peruvian medical mission trip, I have become more interested in the “public health” aspect of my independent study on top of the administrative wonders that this project has brought on. Many people are aware of the immense difference in the quality of healthcare between developing and developed countries but not very many are truly aware of why these disparities truly exist and why we can’t seem to change it. Last year, I looked a little bit into the differences in how developing and developed countries pay for the healthcare they receive and I came across a big revelation: one of the many reasons many countries seem to be stagnant in their healthcare progression is that they have no government and/or privatized help to carry the financial load that sophisticated healthcare requires. In order to take the load off of the individual and finally allow the impoverished person to get the heart surgery they so desperately need, there needs to be a presence of infrastructure and social systems available (like private insurance in the U.S. and socialized healthcare in Canada) that will alleviate the price the individual has to pay.

Going on with that, and in relation to Peru, I came across an article published by the American Heart Association that describes one of the improvements in healthcare that has come to a developing country - Peru. To provide some background, “In Peru, cardiovascular disease affects 3.2 million (16 percent of the adult population), leading to a significant loss of well-being, estimated at 281,829 Disability Adjusted Life Years”. Additionally, the American Heart Association says “In 2008, cardiovascular deaths represented 30 percent of all global deaths, with 80 percent of those deaths taking place in low- and middle-income countries”. The massive presence of cardiovascular issues in developing countries is too big to ignore and the Salvando Corazones medical mission is doing its part to help lessen the evil grasp heart disease has on our world.

In the article I analyzed for this assessment, it mentions that there is a newly developed rapid imaging protocol quickly and cheaply diagnosed heart ailments in patients in Peru. This development has greatly broadened people’s access to heart imaging by reducing the time it takes to get an analysis as well as the cost.

“Researchers found rapid CMR satisfied all imaging needs in 89 percent of patients,” making this new technique of CMR (Cardiac Magnetic Resonance) imaging extremely effective and a breakthrough in medicine for developing countries. Not only did this fast and cheap imaging technique find issues that needed immediate clinical attention, the images also found small issues that could be prevented from developing into major problems with a few changes in daily routine. If this were to be implemented throughout Peru and throughout many other developing countries, the mortality rate due to heart disease would most definitely decrease, paving the way for a better and brighter future for young people - without the threat of unavailable healthcare.