# Physicians And Technologists Complete Humanitarian Mission

**Ultrasound systems image over 500 underserved patients in Guadalajara, Mexico in one week**

Dr. Jimenez conducting an ultrasound exam.

The ease of use and versatility of the Terason Ultrasound System enabled physicians to treat an astonishing number of patients in just one week. With limited time, space and personnel it was imperative to have a fast, accurate diagnosis allowing treatments for those who otherwise would be left unseen. Terason and their ultrasound system proved to be the right choice in bringing daily activities back to those who were impeded by pain and mobility.

A group of eight physicians and technologists from the American College of Phlebology and the Hackett Hemwall Foundation took part in a humanitarian medical mission in Guadalajara, Mexico. The physicians are Rick Shacket, Richard Owens, Ghabi Ghorayeb, Gary Clark, Lee Schulman, Carl Black and an ultrasound technologist Paul Lemon, RVT. The trip was led by Dr. Jeffrey Patterson of the University Of Wisconsin School Of Medicine's Family Practice Department. They provided not only the leg vein treatments, but also prolotherapy, a highly-effective injection technique for treating chronic musculoskeletal pain.

Mexico is underserved by vein specialists, so the demand for this care is

extraordinary and far exceeds the ability of the few qualified Mexican physicians to treat the population.

Carl Black, M.D. and Paul Lemon, RVT with the Terason 2000 Ultrasound System during surgery.

The Terason Ultrasound Systems proved instrumental in its capabilities under extreme conditions. The rechargeable battery and lightweight portability made ultrasound scanning viable. The superior image quality of the Terason ultrasound system provided the group of physicians the confidence needed for a wide range of patients. The sharp contrast resolution and enhanced tissue clarity needed for needle guidance enabled fast and accurate placement, thus allowing for more patients to be seen than originally planned. The ease-of-use, reliability and one button optimization feature also facilitated rapid throughput.

All patients were screened utilizing the CEAP classification system, which identifies six levels of concern to help categorize the severity of venous disease. Leg vein disorders range from mild telangiectasias (spider veins) to the most severe form of venous affliction, namely open leg ulcers. Lower levels of concern are spider veins, varicose veins and edema (swelling). Patients who also suffer symptoms of brown discoloration around the lower legs, and healed or open sores, met the criteria of more severe symptoms of venous insufficiency and were given a higher priority for physician care by the screening volunteers.

Varicose veins

During this clinic, diagnostic duplex ultrasound examinations were performed, and appropriate treatments delivered to over 500 patients. Patients presented with complaints which ran the spectrum from unsightly veins, to symptoms of itching, burning, swelling, tingling, throbbing, heavy feelings in legs, and tired, sore legs, to muscle cramps and ulcers. Many patients were unable to work and complete the activities of daily living.

Treatments were performed using endovenous laser ablation and ultrasound guided injection sclerotherapy for venous insufficiency, large varicose veins, swollen legs, and venous ulcerations. Ambulatory phlebectomy [surgical removal of large twisted and knotted superficial varicose veins] was also performed under local anesthesia on selected patients. Visual vein light-assisted sclerotherapy was also used by the physicians to treat telangiectasias, reticular veins, and minor bulging varicosities.

The use of the compact Terason System was a breeze! The portable t3000 and 2000 units performed well throughout the week without failure. The clarity of the images made assessment quick and easy. Whether with battery or electrical power, the dependability was consistent. Maneuverability and portability added to the ease of use and the simplicity of the control panels made the transition from other machine brands easy, even for those who have never used the system before.

**Rick Shacket DO, MD(H) Comprehensive Health Services Phoenix, AZ**

*Dr. Rick Shacket is a board certified family practitioner and proctologist, who also sub- specializes in phlebology (vein care). He learned phlebology while serving on international mission trips with a group of vein care specialists from the Hemwall Hackett Foundation, and is devoted to their cause.*

*"Any medical professional who can donate some of their time and attention to helping the medically under-served and disadvantaged people of Honduras and Mexico, can also learn the craft of phlebology and prolotherapy from the good doctors and nurses at the Hemwall Hackett Foundation," says Dr. Shacket.*

*For more information contact the Hemwall Hackett Foundation at* info@prolotherapy-hhf.org *[1].*

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