

2010 October 26

Well, here we are finally making an internet connection after 4 days in Cambodia and 2 full days in the operating room. The trip itself went smoothly and we were off up country Sunday morning..... before any internet cafes were open.

Yesterday was somewhat organized chaos. For some totally unknown reason, the people recruiting patients for the project chose to have them come on the morning we expected to start surgery. Not a good plan. Monday we arrived at the hospital to find a crowd milling around, several with obvious goiters... others with problems not easily diagnosed in passing. Several had been phoned the night before to at least make sure they didn't eat before arriving the next morning. We actually managed to have two tables running before 11! The whole day was rather chaotic as there seemed to be multiple patient lists and schedules operating independently. Good thing Drew was looking after the patients while i was running around trying to figure out what was supposed to happen next. it felt like herding cats.

The patients all survived and so did we. My little draw-over anesthesia system in a suitcase is working very well. It even has a scavenging system that dumps the gases into the next room. Drew has begun his halothane immersion course with an appropriate number of arrhythmias that all settled rapidly. Today ran much more smoothly.

And now it's time to head back to the guest house and get ready for an early morning start.

Alison