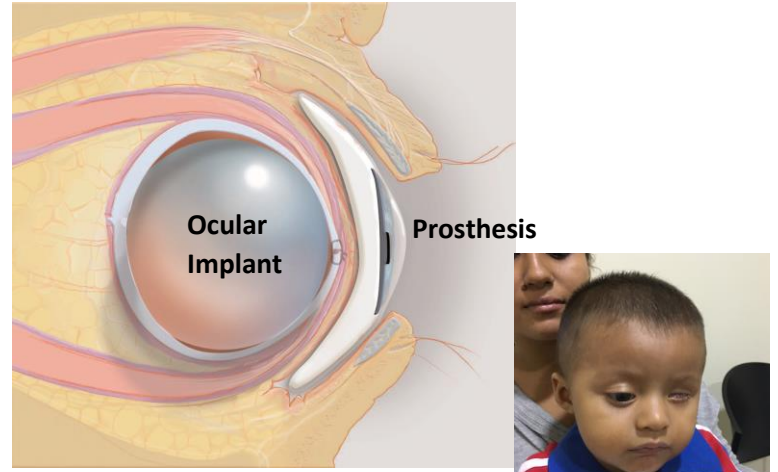


EYE CARE INTERNATIONAL

Follow-up Case: Jose A. (Left)

We originally reported on this case in 2017. Jose was initially brought to the Eye Care International mission after being examined by Dr. Bourah, a local Salvadorian Pediatrician, who noticed something concerning with the baby's left eye. Eye Care International Ophthalmologists agreed to examine the eye and diagnosed the one year old with a life-threatening tumor: retinoblastoma. He was then referred to Ophthalmologist, Dr. Marco Goenz, MD, located at Bloom Children's Hospital in San Salvador. His left eye had to be surgically removed in order to remove the tumor. An Ocular Implant was also surgically implanted. A few months later he was fit for a prosthetic eye.



While this story may sound very tragic, the consult, diagnosis and eventual surgery potentially saved this boy's life. After Jose's left eye was surgically removed, he received chemotherapy to treat the tumor at Bloom Hospital in San Salvador, El Salvador. Little Jose is now three years old and doing great! Eye Care International has continued to follow-up with this case with special funding and routine prosthetic evaluations/fittings. The above photos show Jose (wearing his prosthetic eye) with Ophthalmologist Dr. Marco Goenz, MD.

I wanted to update you all on this particular case. I believe it provides but one example of how our being in El Salvador makes a difference. Although not as dramatic as potentially saving a young life, providing readers to a grandmother so she can read the Bible and sew again, helping a student in school by fitting them for a pair of glasses that help them see the classroom board or performing cataract surgery so the patient can see again, what we do for two weeks, makes a significant difference to those we are privileged to serve. And while not everyone's task on the mission is as dramatic as performing surgery, EVERYONE'S job is important to our core vision of providing eye care to the underserved.

I want to again personally thank everyone for their participation and hard work which made this year's campaign a success.

Tad MacDonnell
Program Director
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