



Low-cost telemedicine

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Centre for Online Health

- University of Queensland research centre
 - located at Royal Children's Hospital
- research
 - telemedicine (ehealth)
 - Internet applications
- teaching
 - PG courses in e-healthcare (GradCert, GradDip and MeH)



← Cardiology

Respiratory →

COH research

- videoconsulting
- email

← Child Development

Diabetes →

← Burns

Oncology →



Global e-referral system for UK charity

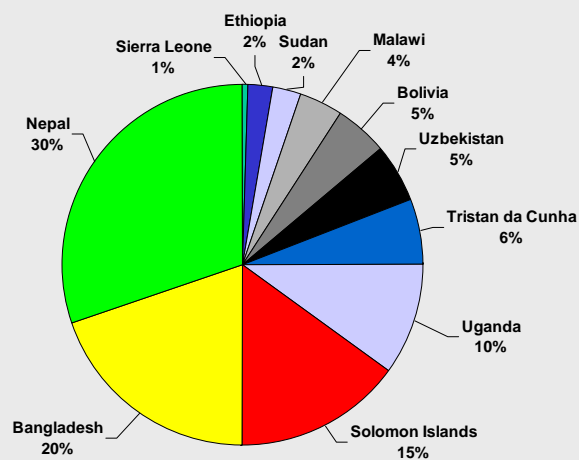
- digital camera pictures and email
- specialist medical advice provided to referring doctors in developing countries
- specialists and staff all work on a volunteer basis



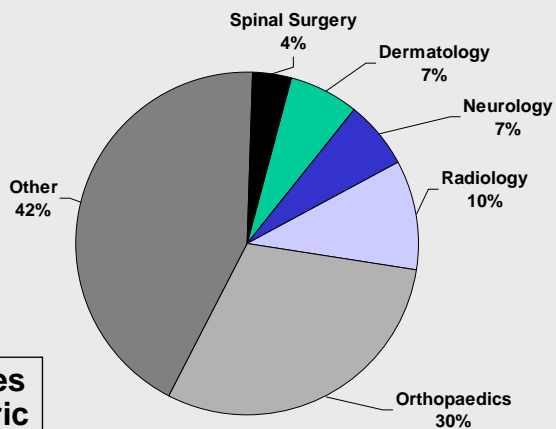
Global e-referrals – 2003

- 172 referrals (cases) from 23 hospitals in 11 countries
- referrals handled by 52 volunteer specialists from a panel of over 100
- median time from receipt of referral to reply from specialist was 1.5 days

Origin of referrers

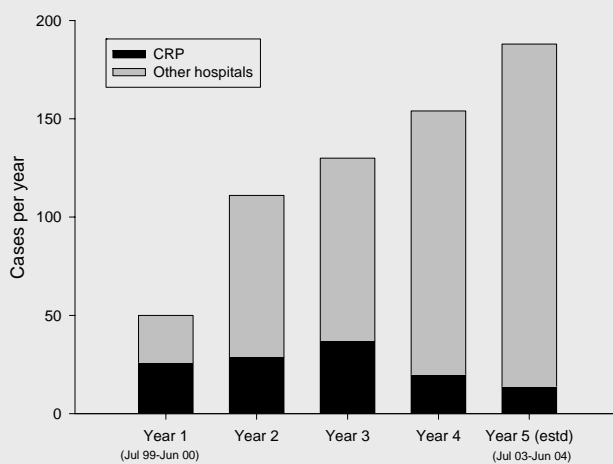


Specialties

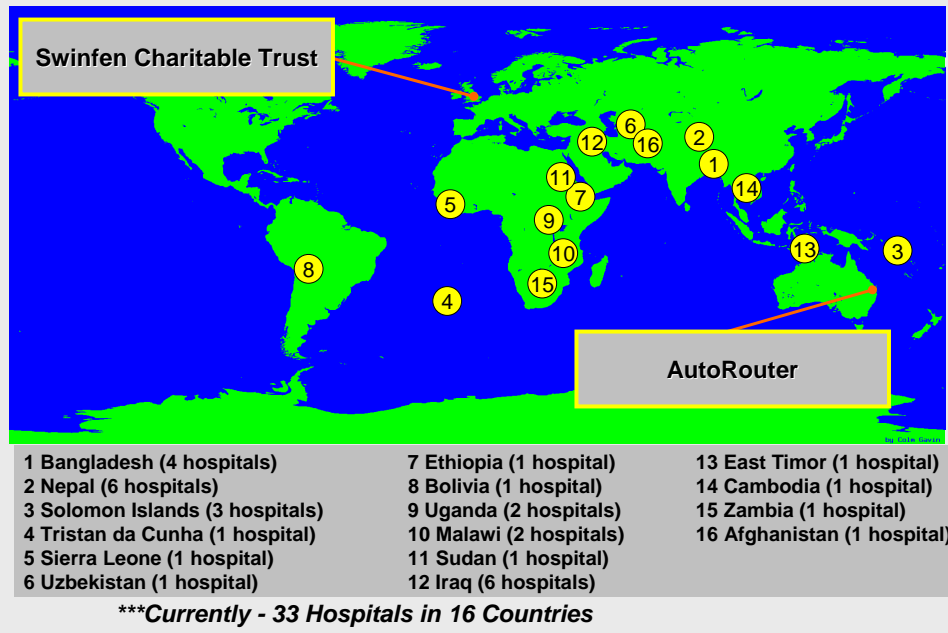


40% of cases are paediatric

Growing caseload



Referring sites: mid-2004



SCT — after 5 years

- value
 - shown to be clinically useful
 - cost-effective for referrers
- problems
 - message-handling (solved by development of automatic-message handling)
 - number of consultants
 - lack of outcomes data

U21 proposal

Each U21 medical school could

- adopt a hospital in a developing country
- support it using email telemedicine
- rotate medical students on electives to gather follow-up data
- publish an evaluation study



National Referral Hospital, Solomon Islands

U21 proposal

- U21 members have valuable resources
 - consultant staff (medical, nursing and allied health)
 - students
- there are gains for both sides

n.b. it isn't only medicine ...



U21 telehealth proposal

- **unique proposal**
- **valuable humanitarian service**
- **opportunity for e-health research**
- **research links to developments in e-health policy and professional portability**

