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[July 1, 2015 update](#)

Greetings!

SAO is gearing up for some great things this fall! We will be making 2 trips to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2015...a small group will visit in October for some preliminary teaching of Peritoneal Catheter placement, and then a larger group in November for several projects involving teaching, catheter placement procedures, and some ENT education. We will be working alongside the Kidney Failure Dialysis Charity Organization based out of Addis Ababa, as well as Plumbers Without Borders. We would like to express our thanks for their continued support to provide this urgently needed resource.

Several people have asked about Peritoneal Dialysis vs Hemodialysis. Here is a brief overview:

Hemodialysis is when blood is taken out of the body through a series of tubes and run through a filter called a dialyzer, where impurities are removed and then returned back into the patient. These procedures are performed within dialysis centers and typically involves patients requiring treatment 3-5 times per week, at great expense to the patient. This procedure also involves the surgical placement and maintenance of an AV fistula or graft in either arm or groin to access the large amount of blood required for dialysis.

Peritoneal Dialysis involves placing a synthetic tube in the patient's abdominal cavity, which allows for exchange of fluid at regular intervals. It uses the patient's own tissues inside their abdominal cavity to act as a filter. It can be tailored to individual needs has been argued as the simplest form of dialysis with limited lifestyle interruptions, and can be significantly cheaper than hemodialysis.

Kidney Disease continues to rise in Ethiopia. We are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work toward alleviating some of the suffering related to this debilitating disease. Please contact us at SAO if you would like more information, or if you would like to contribute to this very important cause.

Mission Statement

To provide support for the improvement of medical care in developing areas of the world. SAO has no religious affiliation.