

PART ONE HISTORY

Hand Surgery Worldwide: International Reconstruction of a "Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind"

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Indonesia

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CHAPTER



Founded 1979

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The Development of Hand Surgery

Orthopedic and plastic surgeons were the pioneers in the formation of the Society. However the Society consists of experts from other disciplines with the intent of working together to support the increasing knowledge of hand surgery. Surgeons who deal with hand surgery have long sought for supporting teams to improve functional results especially for the patients suffering from traumatic injury and leprosy. The expert teams, mainly hand therapy, have contributed much to the rehabilitation programs. It was also the rule imposed by the Indonesian Medical Association that any professional group wanting to form a new society or association must include similar "working groups" if they have not established a curriculum of study for a particular specialization. Thus, the society which was formed in 1979 was named

HIPITA (Himpunan Indonesia untuk Pengembangan Ilmu Bedah Tangan) which literally means "Indonesian Society of Experts to Develop the Science of Hand Surgery." However, the name did not refer to the particular specialty of hand surgery. Besides orthopedic and plastic surgeons, leprosy surgeons are amongst the surgical practitioners who are eligible for membership as well as other specialties such as specialized doctors in medical rehabilitation. The Official Bearers made a decision later on to name it as The Indonesian Society for Surgery of The Hand in order to better communicate with international colleagues and societies, and to be eligible for membership into the IFSSH.

The Pioneers

The HIPITA started with a few members comprised of mostly orthopedic and plastic surgeons and some other doctors specializing in medical rehabilitation, microbiology, and leprosy, etc. The Society was headed by Djoko Roeshadi, an orthopedic surgeon noted as one of the prominent pioneers of hand surgery in Indonesia. He worked together in the development of hand surgery with other pioneers i.e. Robbana Bisono and Sidik Setiamihardja, (leading plastic surgeons) and Chehab R. Hilmy and Ahmad Djojosingito (leading orthopaedic surgeons). Djoko Roeshadi devoted his works mostly on hand surgery and kindly introduced the meticulous techniques to his colleagues and trainees in orthopedic surgery. (Fig. 1) He was the first one to perform replantation of finger and hand amputations as well as toe to finger transplantation in the country. Apparently he was the first one to organize a workshop on microsurgery in the country and invited plastic surgeons to participate. By this action he showed the generous intention to bring all experts interested in



FIG. 1 Djoko Roeshadi, most prominent pioneer of hand surgery in Indonesia. Picture courtesy of Teddy O.H.Prasetyono.

hand surgery to work together to develop delicate surgical skills. He has served as the President of the Society since the establishment to the year of 2005 when he handed over the position in a National Congress to his successor Erwin Ramawan who learned the surgery from him. During his tenure he struggled to fund himself to represent his country in the international congresses of the APFSSH and IFSSH amid the "long dormant period" when the Society did not have any active scientific meetings. Satrio, Burhanuddin Rambe, Agung Sutiyoso, and Syaifulah Hadi are some members to mention a few, who acted as national delegates in the APFSSH national delegate meetings during his tenure.

The late Chehab Hilmy was the individual who strongly suggested the science of hand surgery to be mastered by those working on hand cases. He was also the man behind the establishment of Sports Medicine in the country especially at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. Accordingly, he elegantly represented the

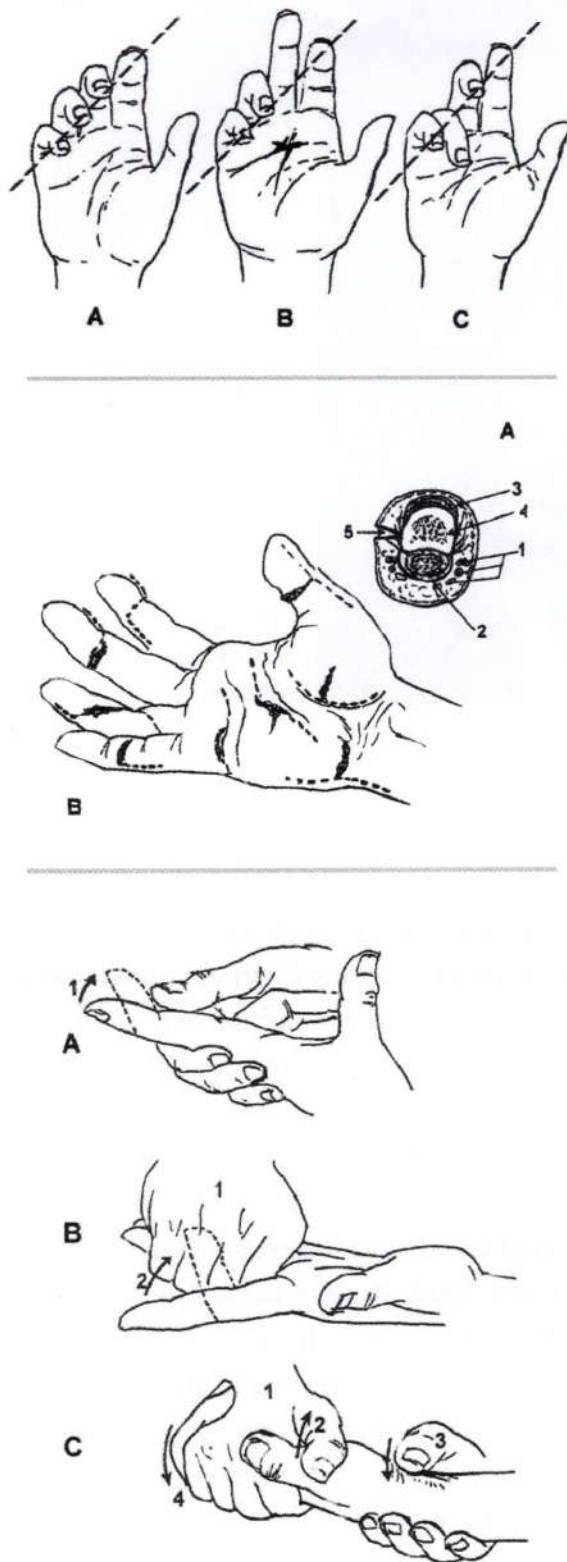


FIG. 2 Some hand illustrations depicted from “Wim de Jong – Sjamsuhidajat Textbook of Surgery” where Robbana Bisono is the solo illustrator of 718 figures of the 954 pages book. Pictures courtesy of Robana Bisono; with permission from medical publisher EGC, Jakarta.

country by relationships with international orthopedic surgeons.

Bisono, who was trained in Australia, was recognized as the premier referral surgeon whenever plastic surgeons in the country had difficult hand cases. He introduced the importance of hand anatomy, function, and clinical examination to obtain a better understanding and achieve better results in hand surgery. He pioneered the application of tendon transfers as well as finger sensate flap transfer to reconstruct an insensate thumb. Moreover, he is remarkably noted as an illustrator of beautifully schematic diagrams of human anatomy and function which he illustrated in the prestigious textbook of surgery, “Wim de Jong – Sjamsuhidajat Textbook of Surgery.”¹ (Fig. 2) Amazed by his work, one of his trainees in plastic surgery, Teddy O.H. Prasetyono, became very interested in hand surgery and organized prestigious events such as the International Symposium on Hand Surgery and the Advances of Hand Therapy from 2004-2006 to stimulate the scientific activities in the country. The three year annual symposium drew interest from Asia Pacific distinguished hand surgeons and therapists and was endorsed by some Societies from Asia Pacific countries. Cadaver dissection enriched workshops on flaps, tendon transfers, and microsurgery, and hands-on courses on hand splinting and therapeutic programs were among the comprehensive programs included. Together with Erwin Ramawan and Heri Suroto, Prasetyono won the bidding to host the coming APFSSH Congress of 2012.

The Training and Certification

The basic training of hand surgery is included in the training of orthopedic and plastic surgery. Practitioners from both specialties who are



FIG. 3 Hand of Javanese woman wearing batik clothes is holding a canting carrying hot wax in her endeavor to create batik tulis delicately. (Picture courtesy of Teddy O.H.Prasetyono and Astuti Pitarini).

interested in hand surgery add their training experiences by taking further study abroad. A full year hand fellowship program in the country, including with a few months studying in Singapore, is currently conducted by the College of Orthopedic and Traumatology. It commenced in the year 2003 under the directorship of Djoko Roeshadi. Since then, it has produced some hand surgeons whose certifications are given by the College of Orthopedic and Traumatology.

Artworks and Cultural Heritages Elaborating Hands

Batik

One of the most famous artworks from Indonesia is batik attire in which Indonesians use it during formal and non-formal occasions. Silk made clothing decorated with beautiful batik patterns is most interesting. Batik is a wax-resistant dyeing technique used on textiles. The original batik from Indonesia is called batik tulis, literally means the written batik. The de-

signs are painstakingly created by hand using a canting, a pen-like applicator which is used to apply the hot wax on a wide white cloth to create intricate designs. Designs are usually inspired by everyday living, customs, and day-to-day activity. It is regarded as a cultural icon which contains symbols and a deep philosophy of the human life cycle. After the hot wax drawing is finished, the wide cloth then dyed using one color only. Multicolor batik cloth is created by several times of dyeing process. In October 2009, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) named Indonesia's handmade batik a world heritage. The picture (*Fig. 3*) shows a local Indonesia woman in the middle of creating batik tulis, using hot wax delicately, which carried inside a canting.

Traditional Dance

Man, woman, and dancing are a blend that maintains cultural existence in the Hinduized Balinese population amid around thousand of dances across the archipelago of Indonesia.



FIG. 4 A woman is performing as Rama, a very handsome, gentle, and kindhearted king of Ayodya kingdom taken from Ramayana epic poems. (a,b) On different occasion of dancing performance depicted from the same story, the same dancer is performing as Shinta, the beautiful wife of Rama.

Balinese traditional dancing has been known worldwide for its exoticism which emphasizes the strong movement of the upper body and flexibility and rigorous gesture of the hands. The speed of fingers movement as well as the gazing of the eyeballs can be extraordinarily fast in some particular dances. The picture in figure 4 shows Tari Ramayana, Ramayana Dance, one of the most popular Bali dancing, performed by native Balinese woman at a sacred temple before the sunset in order to celebrate God's goodwill to human being.

Weaving

As one big archipelago consists of 17,508 islands, Indonesia has countless elaborate culture and heritage. Indonesia traditional weaving, or best known as songket, is locally hand-made cloth existing variably across the archipelago. The process of songket weaving exclusively uses golden and silver thread following an intricate pattern, which usually is pictured as Indonesia floras and faunas. The stunning cloth



FIG. 5 A young girl in the family's showroom is weaving a particular pattern of songket from Lombok, an island just east to Bali island. Some patterns of the songket were displayed at the background. Picture courtesy of 2121studio.com [cited 2009 December 9]. Available from <http://www.tokgajah.com/viewtopic.php?f=23&t=4496&start=75>.

is typically worn on special occasions. The picture shows colorful songket Lombok, a traditional weaving cloth originally made from an island located just east to Bali island. (Fig. 5)

Reference

1. Sjamsuhidajat R, de Jong W, editors. Buku Ajar Ilmu Bedah (Textbook of Surgery). 2nd ed. Jakarta: EGC; 2004.