

## Telemedical support for Iraq

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The Swinfen Charitable Trust (SCT) provided two kinds of telemedical support to Iraq during 2004. Starting in January 2004, the Al-Yarmouk Teaching Hospital in Baghdad was able to refer cases into the well-established global e-health network that the SCT has operated for the last five years. (In the first quarter of 2004, the SCT dealt with a total of 57 referrals from 15 hospitals in eight countries.) Two cases were referred from Baghdad in March 2004, which were dealt with by consultants from the UK and from Australia.

The SCT Administrators visited Basrah during April 2004 and met Iraqi doctors at the Shaibah Hospital as part of the international initiatives to improve health care there. Following this visit, the SCT network expanded to include another four hospitals in Iraq (Table 1).

Hospital	Telemedicine cases (first eight months of 2004)
Al Sadar Teaching Hospital, Basrah	12
Al-Yarmouk Teaching Hospital, Baghdad	7
Basrah Maternity and Child Hospital, Basrah	3
Azadi Hospital, Dohuk	3
Rizgari Hospital, Erbil	2
<i>Total</i>	27

In addition, the SCT provided an electronic health records (EHR) system to support the rebuilding of maternity services, which has been led by the British Royal Colleges. The maternity records system is a Web-based EHR system, running on a secure server, which allows integrated access from antenatal clinics, from hospitals and from post-natal clinics in Iraq. Patients can view their own notes, thus promoting ownership of medical information, and doctors can view the notes of their own patients, from any Internet-connected PC. No special software is required by the user.