

18th Causse Clinic Course Report. 30th June - 2nd July 2016.

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This year the Causse Clinic ran its 18th International Otology course. This is a highly reputable course run by a fantastic local faculty and numerous expert international faculty.

I am very grateful to the TWJ Foundation for providing me a grant for a short visiting fellowship to attend this course. The local faculty also extend the privilege by allowing a limited number of course attendees to come early at no extra charge.

I attended two days of pre-course as well as the full course. The course consists of three days of live surgery demonstrations and relevant Otology lectures. The live surgery included primary & revision Stapes surgery, Ossiculoplasty, Combined Approach Tympanoplasty and Vibrant Soundbridge. The lectures covered a broad range of topics including ossiculoplasty, cholesteatoma, middle ear implants and endoscopic ear surgery. Throughout the course there was ample opportunity for audience interaction and Q&As.

Attending the pre-course meant that I was able to witness a similar range of operations directly in the Operating Room (OR) rather than through a video link. This is a much more intimate setting and so allowed an even greater appreciation of the cases and surgical finesse. It also revealed how well the OR is geared towards Otology surgery. Every member of the team knew their role and performed with little or no prompting. The patient is correctly positioned and the surgical field prepared before the surgeon scrubs. The scrub nurse knows exactly which instrument is needed and when. Without doubt, such smooth running in the OR can contribute towards an optimum outcome.

The setting of the course is also excellent. The Causse clinic is based close to the town of Béziers in the south of France. This is a beautiful region with great food and drink. The course dinners were in idyllic venues and the faculty was very hospitable.

I think that the timing of this course was ideal for my career development. As a junior Consultant early in a career sub-specialising in Otology, I have already taken on board what I have learnt during Registrar training and am implementing this in my daily practice. This, however, is also a period when we fully realize the technical complexity of certain cases. Consequently it is a period associated with a steep learning curve. Attending the course at this time meant that I had a fuller understanding of the surgery and was able to extract maximal benefit from the demonstrations and tips towards my own surgical experience.

I would highly recommend this course to all Otologists and would like to thank the TWJ Foundation and the Cause Course Faculty for the experience.