AmeriCares and Meda Pharmaceuticals Support Medical Mission to Nepal

Himalayan HealthCare (HCC) is a nonprofit organization that works to provide free health services to patients in remote areas of Nepal who lack access to quality, affordable health care. Since 1992, HCC has provided medical donations to local doctors and organized medical missions to underserved areas, bringing U.S. health professionals to Nepal to operate temporary clinics. The organization has opened its own hospital in the town of Ilam in Eastern Nepal, serving a region of 300,000 people. The organization recently hosted a medical team from Worldwide Healing Hands and AmeriCares supported this trip with donations of products including 24 bottles of PreferaOB One, generously provided by Meda Pharmaceuticals.

The medical team, led by Dr. Paula Dhanda, evaluated nearly 1,000 patients and performed 25 surgeries during their time at the Ilam Hospital. Meda Pharmaceuticals’ PreferaOB One allowed both the team and local health workers to provide pregnant patients with a safe and effective prenatal vitamin. “The PreferaOB One was given to the 18 midwives that we trained so they could distribute them to their patients in the remote areas of Eastern Nepal where they worked,” Dr. Dhanda said.

One patient, 58-year-old Namita, traveled 100 miles to reach the hospital, walking much of the way. When she arrived, the examining doctor quickly diagnosed her with severe prolapse of her uterus and bladder. The team performed a hysterectomy on Namita, repairing her pelvic floor. When Dr. Dhanda reviewed her chart on rounds later that evening, she noticed Namita had not asked for any pain medication, even though her surgery had been only hours earlier. “I have been suffering for over 20 years and you have saved me from this future pain,” Namita told her. “I am so grateful to all of you for what you have done and I do not wish to complain.”

Namita’s response is common among patients who have lived without access to proper health services. “For women like Namita, their suffering is a way of life,” Dr. Dhanda said. “No gynecologist had been
in this remote area of Nepal for a year, not since our last mission in 2012. The women expect so little and appreciate everything that they receive.”

AmeriCares thanks Meda Pharmaceuticals for its generous donation and support of the underserved population of Nepal. Together we are improving global health and helping people live longer, healthier lives.