

La Promisse



St. Joseph's Parish Sets New Packathon Record!

From left to right: Packathon organizers Ellen Benoit, Cathy Zimmerman, Michael Gillis, Holy Name Director of Annual Giving, Meghan Oh, and Director of Engagement and Food Packathon Program, Nancy Thomas.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

In ten sessions spread across April 28 to April 30th, more than 500 people from St. Joseph's Parish and schools, the Knights of Columbus, and the Needham, Massachusetts community showed their love of God and neighbors at a packathon for the Hôpital Sacré Coeur Food Packathon Program. **They packed a record-breaking 158,680 meals** for the desperately poor and hungry in the Milot region of northern Haiti. Despite already working a busy week, they persisted with that special joy from putting love into action.

The packathon program is a tremendous opportunity to introduce people to the stellar work at Holy Name's Hôpital Sacré Coeur, the plight of Haitians in the Milot region, and the recruitment of new volunteer medical teams. As a result of packathons held across the US, Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name has been blessed with hundreds of new supporters for the hospital.

The people in the Needham area, like nearly 6,000 packathon attendees, evidenced an unselfish act of kindness that will allow people suffering from severe malnutrition to eat — often for the first time in days — and to feel the grace of God through the miracle of meals provided by compassionate strangers.

God bless you, Needham! Thank you!! ■



A Birth that Touched Many Hearts



Ciara Bromeus was born on January 31, 2023, in the Hôpital Sacré Coeur maternity department and transferred to the Pediatric ward on February 2nd. What should have been a highly joyous

occasion was just the opposite. **Ciara's mother died right after giving birth from postpartum hemorrhage.** No other relatives visited the hospital to meet their newest family member, celebrate her birth, and bring her home.

As always, the compassionate Pediatrics team took the beautiful baby under their supportive wings and smothered her with attention and love. Dr. Michele Hanna, Hôpital Sacré Coeur's Chief Medical Officer, and a pediatrician, named her. Now, despite the tragedy surrounding her birth, Ciara is a smiling infant who likes to play and to be held. Efforts were made to find Ciara's family without success. ■



An Extraordinary and Rare Surgery with a Successful Outcome

By Louima Bendson, MD, Chief of Surgery, Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Photos by Dr. Louima Bendson, MD

INTRODUCTION Hibernoma is a rare benign tumor originating from the persistent brown fatty tissue of the fetus. Brown fat has a function of thermogenesis, especially in the first years of a child's life, but it regresses with age. In general, the tumor grows slowly, leading to the appearance of a soft tissue tumor. In adults, the most frequent residual areas of brown fat are generally located in the interscapular region, the mediastinum, the retroperitoneum, the back, the thigh, and, sometimes, the head and the neck.



In this article, we report on an unusual case of hibernoma in a patient with a painless mass in the left arm. We review the epidemiology, clinical course, diagnosis, and treatment.

CASE PRESENTATION A 55-year-old man presented for consultation in the general surgery department for a mass located at the upper 1/3 level and external face of his left arm. The patient had this mass for 3 years, but suddenly it began to grow exponentially.

The clinical examination showed a soft, very bulky, relatively mobile mass located in the left humeral region. No cervical or axillary lymph nodes were found. Ultrasonographic and radiological examinations suggested a soft tissue mass. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was not performed in the Nord department due to unavailability.

Fine needle biopsy was performed but not contributory. Thus, surgery was performed to excise the mass completely.

The immediate postoperative consequences were infection at the operating site, anemia, and hypoproteinemia due to a lack of nutritional means.

Gross examination revealed an encapsulated tan brown polylobulated tumor, weighing 28.8 pounds and measuring 48 x 25 x 30 cms.



The definitive pathological examination retained the diagnosis of hibernoma characterized by mature fat cells, abundant eosinophilic cells with small cytoplasmic vacuoles, and regular, small, round cell nuclei.

The patient is now nine months postoperative with good evolution.



CONCLUSION Hibernoma is a rare benign tumor resembling other benign soft tissue lesions such as liposarcoma. This article reports an unusual presentation of left arm hibernoma characterized by rapid and painless growth. Fine needle biopsy and surgical excision were performed. The evolution is satisfactory.

Thanks are due to the medical and administrative management of the Hôpital Sacré Coeur, the General surgery staff, and especially the surgeons on duty: Dr. Pharline Joseph Seraphin and Dr Allan Raphael, and the operating room staff.

Most importantly, tremendous thanks are due to the Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name community, whose continuing support and prayers have made

Hôpital Sacré Coeur a center of medical excellence and who have given this patient relief and aid beyond compare. ■

Referencces: Alexandra Rodriguez Ruiz, Sven Saussez, Thibaut Demaesschalck, and Jérôme R. Lechien, (2017). Hibernoma: a rare case of adipocytic tumor in head and neck. Articles from BMC Ear, Nose, and Throat Disorders are provided here courtesy of BioMed Central.

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Holy Name Lauded as a New Jersey Company that Cares

The May/June issue of *Commerce: The Business of New Jersey* cited Holy Name as one of New Jersey's "Companies that Care" for its global outreach efforts in Haiti with Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

GLOBAL OUTREACH Holy Name



Holy Name is a leading independent health system, providing world-class care through a combination of medical expertise, innovative technology, and humanity at the heart of every interaction. The Teaneck-based system is also home to Hôpital Sacré Coeur, the largest private hospital and public health provider for the more than 250,000 people living in the Milot region of Haiti, the poorest country in the Northern hemisphere.

On that island there is little to no access to adequate housing, sanitation, water, electricity, or food. Forty-three percent of Haitians, or 4.7 million people, face acute hunger — including 2.4 million children. Managed hand in hand by Holy Name clinical and administrative leaders in Haiti and in Teaneck, Hôpital Sacré Coeur provides medical assistance and crucial relief to those in the community. The hospital also serves as a food distribution center for the Milot community, distributing much-needed nourishment, which has been packed by volunteers through Packathons across the United States — all led by Holy Name. To date, nearly 6,000 volunteers have packed more than 1.6 million meals and raised nearly \$450,000 for the most vulnerable in Milot.

A Message from Moji Gashti, MD, Hôpital Sacré Coeur Volunteer Surgeon

Fellow Volunteers,

We are a general surgery team and have traveled to Hôpital Sacré Coeur annually since the 1990s. Because of the pandemic and other issues, you are all aware of, we have not made the trip for the last three years. **I am happy to say that we just returned on 4/15/2023 after performing 52 surgeries in 5 days, primarily thyroidectomies, herniorrhaphies, and breast surgeries. I want to share our experience with you.**

Our team members were naturally concerned about the security and health issues before our departure. Fortunately, we have two CRNAs on our team, Sisters originally from Haiti, who had traveled to Cap-Haïtien in February to visit family and assured us that the region was as secure as always. We then witnessed this firsthand during our arrival at the airport, our trip to the hospital, our stay in Milot, and our departure back to the airport. **At no time during this week did we ever experience anything out of the ordinary. Indeed, we all felt very safe, and the pick-up and drop-off, thanks to the great work by Lumarc, was flawless and smoother than I ever remember in more than 20 years of traveling to Milot.**

The hospital continues to grow and appears busier than ever. Naturally, their need has also grown. We usually conduct clinic Saturday after we arrive and book enough cases for the week. Sunday is the day for planning our surgeries, stocking the ORs with what we will need, and for pre-op. This year, however, we spent 5 hours on Saturday in the clinic and another 5 hours Sunday morning, and still, we had to turn away countless patients who had waited to be seen, but we did not have enough time to offer them the surgeries they needed. **THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS IS TREMENDOUS.**



The residential area has been renovated, and it just looks beautiful. Volunteers now have private rooms with showers and bathrooms. Some rooms have AC, and others have fans. Although we did not have hot water all week because of a mechanical issue, having our rooms was great. We did not have to go to the cafeteria for our meals. There is now a fully functional kitchen in the residential area where three meals a day are prepared solely for the volunteers. The food, of course, was as delicious as always.



Overall, we had a very productive week in Milot at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. We all felt very safe all week, and the hospital staff and the residents of Milot treated us with respect, as they always do, and were sincerely happy and grateful to see us back. Although the hospital has grown significantly with more physicians/ staff (i.e., three general surgeons on staff now), the need for volunteers with the expertise that they bring to the hospital is tremendous. **I urge you to consider resuming your excellent work at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions. ■**

Moji Gashti / smgashti@hotmail.com

Volunteers Needed

Hôpital Sacré Coeur's medical director, Dr. Michele Hanna, and US Medical Director, Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Dr. Jim Morgan work closely to manage the teams' travel to Milot. The hospital's current needs determine the timing and specialty of the teams.

The following specialties are needed:

- Urgent need for Ob-Gyn teams
- Urgent Need for Urology Teams.

Other specialties needed include:

- Emergency Department
- ENT
- Oral Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Internal Medicine

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Dr. Jim Morgan at jamorgan@holyname.org

If you have not volunteered prior, please visit the Volunteer Application and Forms page [HERE ►](#)



Volunteer Veterinarians Needed!

The Hôpital Sacré Coeur Farm began in response to the extreme food insecurity the Milot region now faces, like all of Haiti. Food stocks are in short supply, and inflation has driven prices up over 50%. Hospital administration knew that eating nutritious food was essential for maintaining good health.

After careful study, the hospital realized the best use of its current resources to meet the food crisis included converting 90 acres of land suitable for food production into a farm.

The hospital's agricultural project now includes 61 cows, 38 goats, and the production of 800 chickens every six weeks. Livestock supports the hospital

cafeteria and provides surplus meat to the neediest in the community.

Animal health infrastructure, including vaccinations and epidemiological assistance, is nearly nonexistent in Haiti. Veterinarian care in the Milot area is sparse. The livestock on the hospital's farm receive primary care, but much more is needed.

If you are willing to volunteer for a few days or a week, please get in touch with Jim Morgan, MD, US Medical Director for Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name, at: jamorgan@holynome.org

► [CLICK HERE](#) to donate to the Farm Project



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