**INTRODUCTION TO PAEDIATRIC SURGERY**

* **Age group:**
* **Pediatric pathology could be:**
  + **Congenital**
  + **Acquired**

**Scope of the pediatric surgeon:**

* + **Congenital malformations of the esophagus, the diaphragm, the stomach, and the small and large intestines; problems of the abdominal wall, genital urinary system, motility of the GIT**
* **Pediatric neurosurgeons** 
  + **Spinal malformations, hydrocephalus, spinal defects and any associated neurological defects**
* **Orthopedic problems:**
  + **Limb and spine malformations**
* **Cardiovascular pediatric surgeon**
  + **Covers all the congenital cardiac malformations involving the heart and the vasculature; these are very common**
* **ENT surgeons**
  + **Congenital malformations of the ear, throat**
* **Maxillofacial surgeons - palate, lips**
* **Plastic surgeons - congenital malformations involving the hands, leg and feet, joint (contractures)**
* **Obs & Gyn - especially acquired problems as a result of congenital malformations corrected by general pediatric surgeons.**

**Where is pediatric surgery practiced**

* **More often in the teaching hospitals in this country; elsewhere there are special centers that concentrate in single problems**
* **The aim si to have a pediatric surgeon in all the teaching hospitals.**

**Lifestyle issues**

* **Overweight issues (bariatric medicine) is a growing field in medicine**
* **Such matters require a concerted efforts from the dietician, endocrinologists and at times a gastroenterologist surgeon is called in to assist in bypass surgeries.**
* **The number one cause of morbidity in the western world is trauma and trauma associated complications**
* **Cancer is very important as a disease; there are special tumors related to children and they have the suffix -blastoma i.e retinoblastoma, neuroblastoma etc.; a saccrococygeal tetrama is a common tumor; another group of tumors from the smooth muscle cells are called rhabdomyosarcomas; there could be mediastinal tumors; Oncological services may be needed**
* **Currently there are only 12 pediatric surgeons in the country**
* **The transitional zone is when we have a patiet who was treated by a pediatric surgeon then the patient becomes a young adult with pediatric problems; theseaare particularly common in urology and in obs and gynae**