



Annual Report of Swiss Spine Foundation 2025

After waiting for almost 2 years (last visit in May 2024) we were able to go to Yangon in December 2025, as the political unrest had improved in Myanmar, and Yangon became safe enough for us again to travel and carry out our non-profit non-governmental foundation activities in Yangon University Orthopedic Hospital.

We stayed in Yangon for 6 days. We operated on 5 days, performed 15 surgeries on young children and adolescents with severe spinal deformities in the Spine Unit of Orthopedic Hospital.

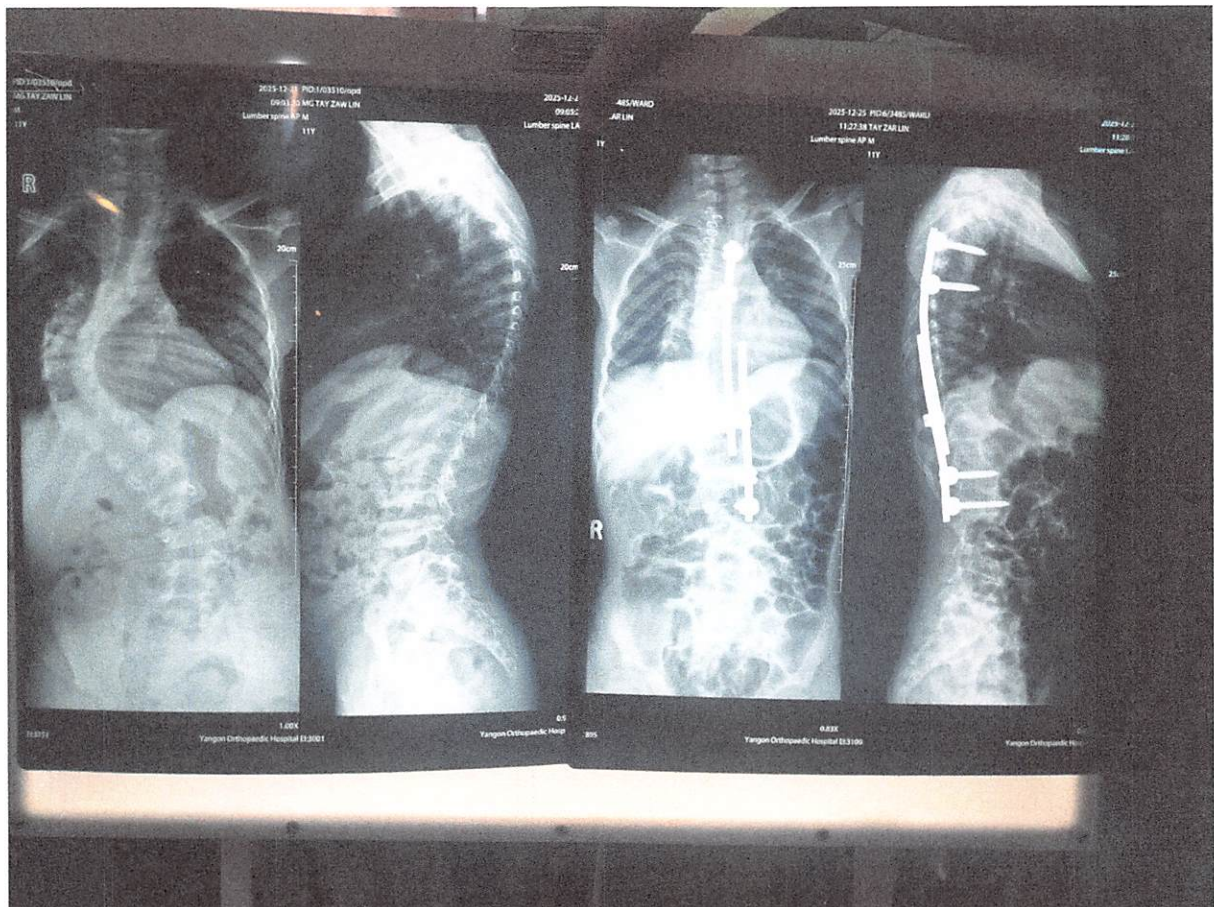
We thank the staff of the Spine Unit for their very efficient organization and support to our endeavors. The spine unit is magnificently organized: in radiology, out-patient / in-patient care, having very good operation rooms, perioperative care of the children. As the surgeries were extensive, very well-trained anesthesiologists and nurses are essential. To manage an underweight young child on operating table undergoing an extensive surgery on the spine is very challenging, considering not the least the circumstances not comparable to developed countries. Without all the perfect support our work would not have been imaginable. After ten years of continuous foundational activity in this hospital the staff and responsible local surgeons are very well trained for the challenges. Dr. Thein Aung Kyaw was promoted to Professor of spinal surgery in Yangon University, and he has always been the main responsible person for our visits. He collected and previewed all patients before my arrival and presented only the patients needing urgent treatment.

The previously donated implants from various companies in Switzerland have mostly been used up. We could still treat some patients with the still available from the leftovers. Many patients have to be treated with locally available screws and implant, (Chinese and Indian products) which we need to buy in local currency. All the implants and surgeries were free of any charge to the patients and their families. Not only the implants but also the costs of anesthesia, cost of perioperative medicine, blood transfusions, among others, were completely paid for by the Swiss Spine Foundation. In addition to medical expenses, all the travel expenses of the patient and families were provided by the Foundation. Many of the patients travelled very far to Yangon from various remote parts of the country. The families could not afford the travel and the accommodation in Yangon. It was difficult enough for them to leave the livestock at home and took many weeks` time for the sake of their beloved sick children to receive the urgently needed treatment from us. They came weeks in advance before our scheduled arrival, underwent various examinations, and stayed a few weeks after the surgery for the checkups to finish. They travelled back only after healing was secured and safe for the patient to travel back home. We are extremely glad to donate everything necessary for them so that the needed surgical treatment of these children could be served. By doing so we fulfilled the purposes of our foundation to full extent. The fact was very simple: The families did not need to spend money on anything.



Swiss Spine Foundation
Schweizerische Wirbelsäulen Stiftung

Below we attach 3 examples of patients we have treated.

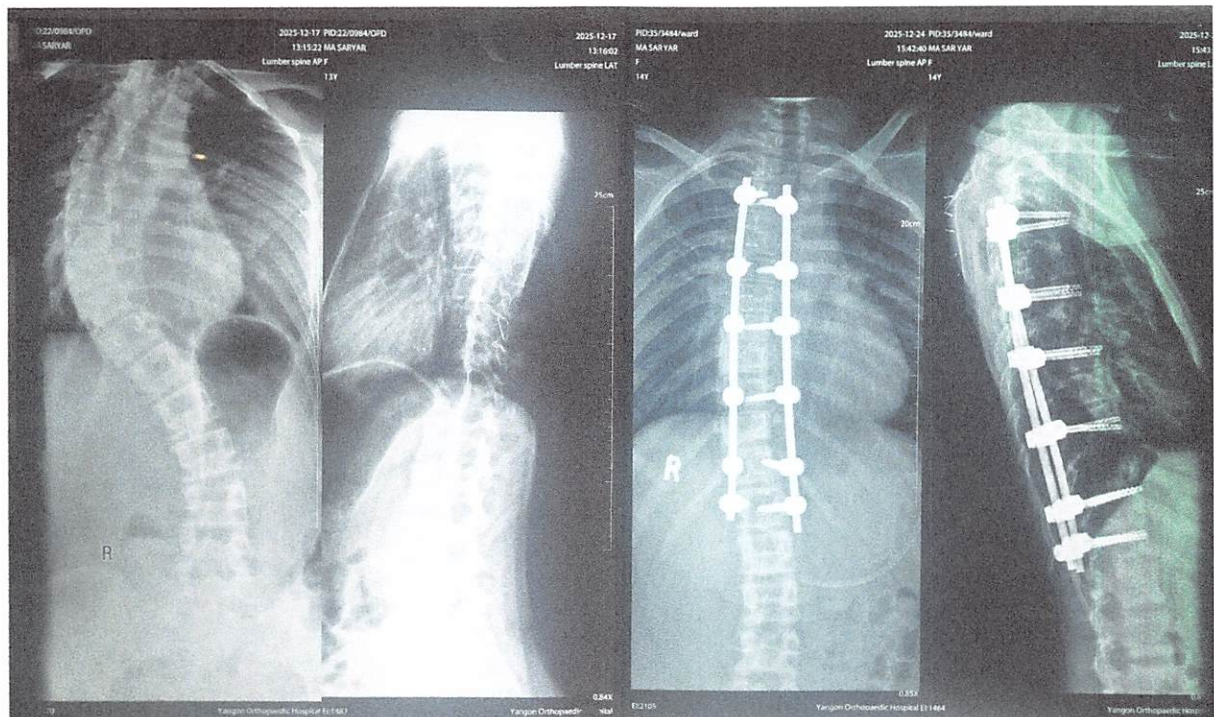


10-year-old boy with severe juvenile scoliosis was treated by implantation of growing spine implant. This implant can be regularly lengthened to adjust his spinal growth.

Schweizerische Wirbelsäule Stiftung
c/o EAW Legal
Beethovenstrasse 5
CH-8002 Zürich

Telefon 044 209 24 40
Fax 044 209 24 41
info@swiss-spine-foundation.com
www.swiss-spine-foundation.com

Banking Account
IBAN CH21 0023 0230 5796 4701 V

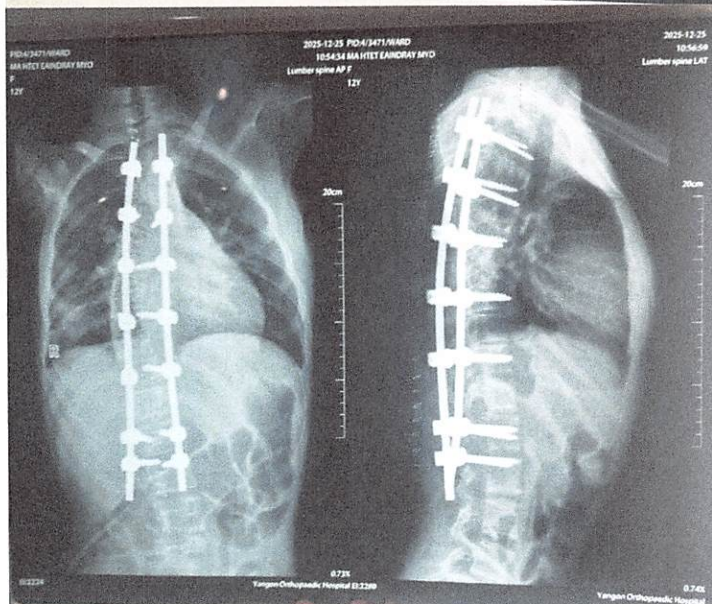
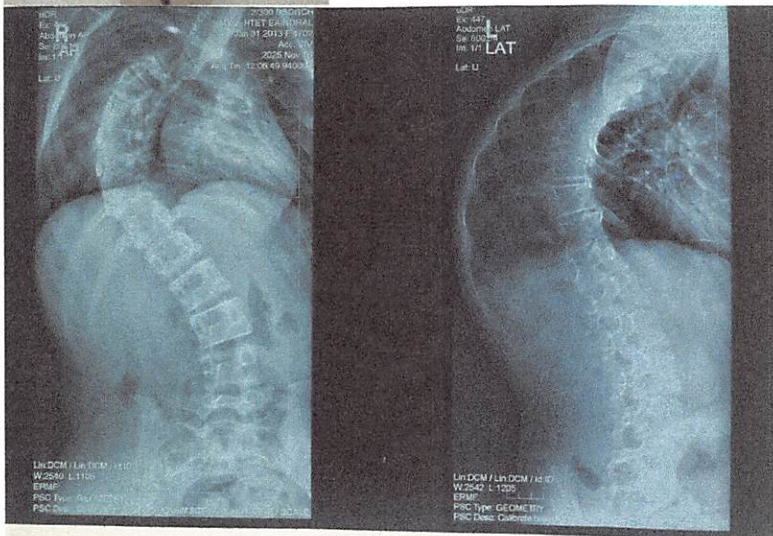


13-year-old girl with severe scoliosis was treated by correction with screws and rods from behind

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12-year-old girl with congenital scoliosis, corrected with screws and rods from behind.

Prof. Kan Min