

Exchange Program in Airlangga University

Surabaya, Indonesia

Kobe University
School of medicine
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I studied Venereology and Dermatology for 4 weeks in Soetomo hospital. I choose this program to study medical English, and some specific diseases. Soetomo hospital is one of the biggest hospitals in Surabaya. All of the Airlangga university students study in this hospital. Therefore, many students helped me a lot to study there.



1. Leprosy

In Japan, there are only 1 or 2 new patients of leprosy every year. So, it's very difficult to study leprosy clinically. But, there are many patients of leprosy in Indonesia, especially in Surabaya. So, I could learn much about it by seeing many patients there.

Leprosy patients are divided into 5 types according to Ridley-Jopling classification. The Indonesian doctors could guess the type of the leprosy patients from their skin lesions, and told me how to do it. Thanks to the kind doctors, I also became able to guess the type a little.

2. HIV

There are many HIV patients in Surabaya. The number of the HIV patients in Surabaya is increasing, though the number of the patients in other countries in Southeast Asia is decreasing. I think that's because there is the biggest prostitution area in Southeast Asia. The name of the place is Dolly. I heard that the customers are inclined to refuse to use condoms. That's why HIV can easily spread there. I thought that it's important to spread the information about the disease.

I studied also in Puskesmas Putat, the small public clinic, near from Dolly. In this clinic, every patient is regularly drawn blood to check HIV without payment. But some patients didn't know about the disease well, and refused the treatment. So, the doctor had to educate the patients sometimes.



3. Students & Doctors

Indonesian students and doctors were all so kind and friendly that I could make friends with a lot of Indonesian people. We ate out, went to karaoke, and went sightseeing. Because we spent much time with Indonesian friends, I could know much about their language, food, culture, and religion. In particular, I was interested in their religion. I didn't know much about Islam, so I couldn't understand their behavior sometimes. But, when I asked them about it, they didn't mind telling me.

This experience helped me to improve my communication ability. Now, I can respect the cultural and religious difference well. It is the biggest result from this training.

