



Summer is not just about beautiful beaches, pristine paradises and endless escapades. It's also known for the rite of passage known to Filipino school-age boys: circumcision.

Circumcision, from the Latin 'circumcidere', meaning 'to cut around', is the surgical removal of the skin covering the tip of the penis. Locally known as 'tuli', this surgical procedure has come a long way. From its historic historical origins during the time of Antiquities, long gone were the times when one has to endure the pain of being circumcised in the absence of anesthesia, and the risk of infection from unsterile procedures.

As part of its summer activities, the Order of Asclepius in partnership with the Health Assistance Brought Locally Once Needed (HABLON) organized a surgical mission on May 13, 2015 at Brgy. Nabitasan, La Paz, Iloilo City.

The said event is headed by Dr. Gregorio Anastacio Rufon Jr. (OA Batch 11). Resident members of the Order of Asclepius together with staff nurses from St. Therese Hospital, took part in the one-day event.

With the barangay hall serving as the operating room suite, a total of 94 children participated in the said event with ages ranging from 6 to 15 years old. Aside from the surgical services offered, post-operative medications for pain and antibiotics as well as health education for home care of circumcision site were provided.

The circumcision drive is in consonance with the thrust of the Order of Asclepius which is to foster brotherhood in medicine through service. With the increasing cost, the said activity sought to provide accessible and free surgical services to our countrymen in the community setting. #

THAT THING CALLED TULI

Article by: John Ramel Rafael

