ENT in La Ceiba, Honduras

One component of the Hackett Hemwall Foundation project
The framework

• Hackett Hemwall Foundation:
  – no religious affiliation
  – director: Jeffrey J. Patterson DO, Chair of Family Practice & UW
  – Main thrusts of the project:
    • Prolotherapy
    • Hearing aids
Location
La Ceiba

- Population: 174 K
- Founded in 1877
- Named after a giant Ceiba tree
- ‘Eco-tourism capital’ of Honduras

- Honduras – classic Banana Republic
- La Ceiba: HQ of Standard Fruit Company ➔ Dole Food Company
La Ceiba

- The city itself... is sort of thrown together and dirty, its beaches are polluted, and it doesn’t hold much of interest to passing tourists. It works best as a base to explore the countless remarkable attractions.....

Frommer’s’s Honduras
The work

• Mostly adult ENT
  – 2 ORs
  – 35-40 cases
  – Most cases done by Sx from WI led by Dr. Michael McDonald

• Schedule
  – Fly in on Saturday
  – Sun pre-op / vacation
  – Mon-Fri 8 am- end of list
  – Sat off to home or Roatan

• Challenges:
  – logistics
    • drugs & supplies
  – improvisation
  – limited equipment
  – communication

• Rewards
  – fun group of people
  – different environment
  – improvisation
The Hospital (former Standard Fruit Company Hospital)
Accommodation

about $400 for 7 nights ‘all inclusive’
Working environment
(lack of) safety

- Crime
  - petty
  - kidnappings
  - gangs
  - drug cartels

- Water

- no JCAHO
Perks