HAWASSA CHRONICLES

EDITION 10 | 29 and 30 APRIL 2010

'NO LIGHTS'

You might have wondered why there are temporal inconsistencies in sending my chronicles. In part, this is due to a phenomenon the local inhabitants call 'no light' whenever there is no electricity available. Depending on one's location, the backup generator kicks in – after someone has sauntered to its location and managed the on off function – or not...

No light has, at times, dire *cough* implications for this translates into no internet connection, no creamy macchiato in the morning, no BBC news service on the telly and no lamps guiding ones adventures during surgery. Are we troubled by this? Not at all! In the latter case, one simply grabs one of the available accu powered torches with super boost function and illuminates the area of interest.





FIBROSARCOMA FROM HELL

After quite enough of cancellectomy, it was turn to operate a firm and not moveable swelling on the back that slowly progressed in size in the past year or two. Because of its size, the patient complained of not being able to lie on his back no more. Besides this complaint, there were no physical ailments or deficits present.



Because the patient was incapable of funding proper investigation, of which, amongst other things, a CT-scan would have been essential in our set up back home, the plan was simply to start operating and resect as much as possible.



In retrospect, this swelling was connected to every possible anatomic structure, ranging from spine, ribs, a wee bit of pleura, muscle, and whatnot. Because it would have been folly to detach half the posterior thorax from his person, we quit and, in all seriousness, projected the patients return in a year or two to repeat this exercise.