



GLOBAL SURGERY - OUT TO THE DISTRICT

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Global Surgery Initiative was introduced and aimed towards the attainment of better health outcomes and equity through access to surgical care across the world. Concerted effort has been made in strengthening healthcare system, implementing evidence-based practices and innovations, developing sustainable workforces, as well as promoting collaboration and partnerships to address surgical needs of the community.

Mersing is well known for its natural beauty- gateway to scenic islands and stunning beaches, lush greenery, rolling hills and abundance of exotic wildlife awaits. It takes hours of braving the winding road to arrive at this quaint town along the East coast of Malaysia. Over the past decades, Hospital Mersing caters for the health needs of estimated 71,000 local residents and nearby areas including Rompin and Pulau Tioman in Pahang, however limited by the lack of surgical capacity. Following the rollout of Global Surgery Initiative, Hospital Sultan Ismail as a tertiary healthcare center in the southern region of Malaysia has now expanded its service out to the district of Mersing, located 120 kilometers away from Johor Bahru.

Joint effort has been made over the last 4 years through continuous training and upgrading of infrastructures in order to deliver optimal surgical care to the doorsteps of local community in Mersing. A new 4-storey hospital building with well-equipped operation theatre, wards and clinic rooms was built. The monthly Surgeon's visit has now evolved into a weekly long stint, allowing the surgical residents to run outpatient clinics, provide immediate assessment and treatment, early identification of cases which require further investigations and referral to tertiary healthcare center, performing both elective and emergency surgeries as well as training and empowering Medical Officers based in the district hospital.

Local residents are able to receive surgical expertise care and occupied 37% of total beds available in Hospital Mersing, at the same time reducing the needs of long-distance ambulance transfer. Various surgery which require regional or general anaesthesia can now be done with full anaesthetic support in Hospital Mersing. Well-equipped operation theatre which was underutilized previously is now in its full function all year long, further reduces patient's waiting time for operation and hassle to travel.

Strengthening and defining the role of district hospital is essential to improve and provide safe, timely and affordable surgical care to the underserved communities. Together, we can do more!

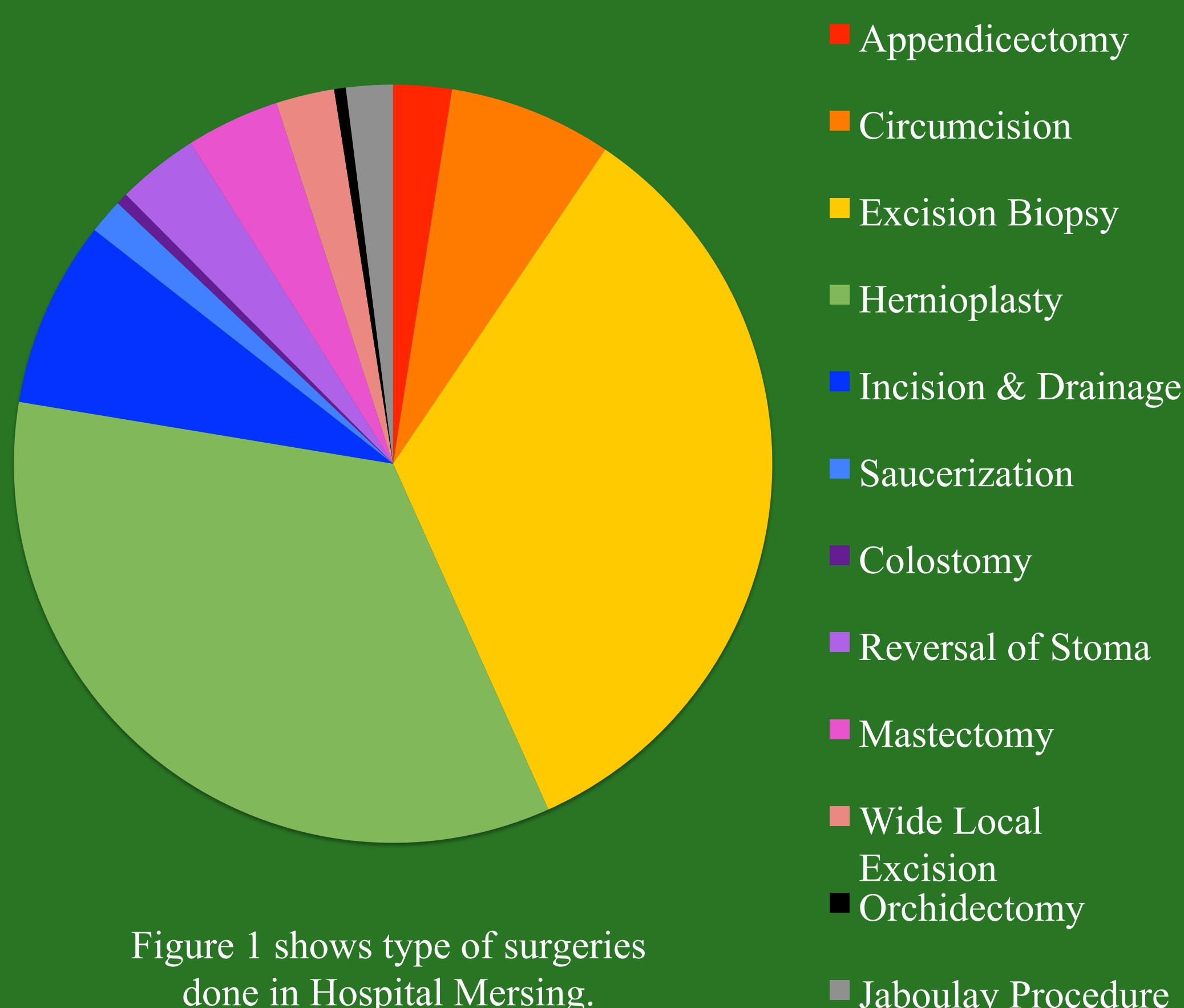


Figure 1 shows type of surgeries done in Hospital Mersing.

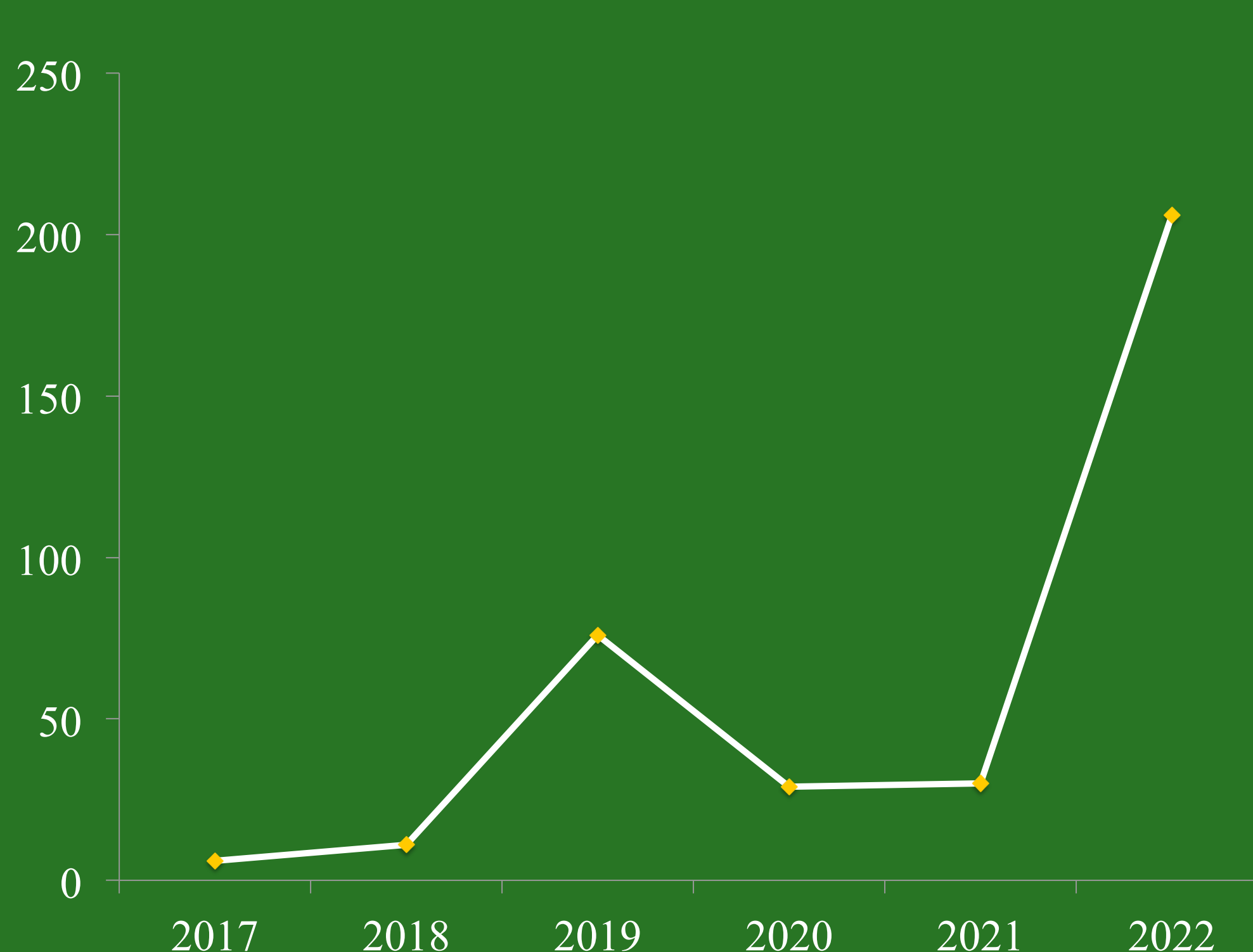


Figure 2 shows number of surgeries done in Hospital Mersing from year 2017 – 2022.