

CONGENITAL CLEFT AND CRANIOFACIAL SERVICES IN SARAWAK FOLLOWING COVID

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Introduction: Congenital cleft lip and palate (CLP) are common congenital malformations, with the prevalence of one in 941 live birth each year in Malaysia. In Sarawak, CLP cases are referred to Plastic Surgeons for the primary correction surgeries along with other disciplines for good total cleft care.

Aim: This study aims to explore the cleft services provided by the Plastic Surgeon in Sarawak including the visiting district hospital in Bintulu, Miri and Sibiu.

Method: Retrospective data collection including the types of cleft surgeries and services has been done covid from year 2020 till 2022 performed by Plastic Surgeons in Sarawak.

Result: A total of 174 cases of cleft surgeries have been performed in Sarawak from year 2020 till 2022. Palatoplasty are the most performed surgeries with total 53% (n=69), followed by cheiloplasty, 40% (n=69) and alveolar bone grafting surgeries, 7% (n=13). Other surgeries such as rhinoplasty and orthognathic surgeries are often performed during the adulthood of the cleft patients and follow up is needed for the long term outcome of the surgeries.

Conclusion: Optimal cleft care services are important to a CLP patient as it has great impact in their functionally, aesthetically and psychologically. More cleft awareness campaign and extended services are needed in Sarawak especially the rural area for the patient to have better access of cleft services provided.