

Avoiding 16000km worth of patient transfer – A Possibility?

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BACKGROUND

The Cluster Hospital Initiative (CHI) was launched in 2014, with Hospital Tawau as the acting lead and the referral centre for Hospital Semporna. Patients who need a higher level of care would need to travel a distance of 107km to Hospital Tawau on a journey that takes almost 2 hours. Any measures that can avoid long travel would not only facilitate in patients' comfort and prevent inconvenience, but would also be beneficial in saving costs and resources.

AIM/OBJECTIVES

To assess the burden of surgical cases in Hospital Semporna and determine measures that would facilitate patient's care without the need to undergo long traveling.

METHODOLOGY

A retrospective analysis were made from data obtained via Semporna Hospital MECC and surgical admissions record in Hospital Tawau. The total number of surgical patients who were stepped up along with their diagnosis and subsequent treatment received is recorded and analysed.

RESULTS

In the year 2022, a total of 158 surgical patients were stepped up from Hospital Semporna to Hospital Tawau. 22 patients transferred for traumatic brain injury requiring CT brain, 15 patients require emergency endoscopy whereas 101 patients require emergency surgery, out of which 63.4% were MO driven cases such as appendicectomy, hernioplasty, incision and drainage, wound debridement and saucerization.

CONCLUSION

With the combination of adequate facilities, presence of trained surgical and anaesthetic care provider, it is perhaps possible to distribute the burden of specialized district hospital. By performing basic surgical services in district hospitals, not only can we cut the cost and time required for inter-hospital transfer, it also prevents delay in treatment which is in alignment with the global surgery initiative.