

DAWN OF GLOBAL SURGERY IN GERIK

AN OVERVIEW OF SURGERIES UNDER LOCAL ANESTHESIA

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Introduction

The Lancet Commission stated that urgent need for surgical and anesthetic care was required by the most vulnerable populations with 32.9% of all global death resulted from conditions requiring surgical care. A 2010 Malaysian study showed 15% of underutilized theatres is due to shortage of human resources. The scenario of Hospital Gerik's operating theatre was indifferent. However, the initiation of the Global Surgery Framework (GSF) had kickstarted Hospital Gerik's operating theatre. This study aimed to demonstrate the number and types of surgeries being performed in the first 2 years of service.

Method

Data of all surgical procedures carried out in the theatre for the years 2021 and 2022 were collected retrospectively. The data were divided into types of surgeries performed and plotted in bar chart, comparing outcomes of both years. All surgeries were performed under local anesthesia.

Result

A total of 19 surgeries were done in 2021; 2 hernioplasties, 4 wound debridement and desloughing, 6 excision biopsies, 3 hemorrhoid banding, 3 secondary suturing and 1 incision drainage. In 2022, a total of 61 surgeries were done, comprising of 44 circumcisions, 10 excision biopsies, 4 hemorrhoid banding, 2 wound debridement and 1 hernioplasty.

Conclusion

Implementation of GSF have increased the utilization of Hospital Gerik's theatre with variety of cases being operated. A significant increase of surgeries in year 2022 compared to 2021 also indicates easier access of patients within the locality as the cost and burden of travelling further to a tertiary hospital could be reduced. Presence of a trained resident surgical officer also enables interprofessional transfer of knowledge and skills among the local healthcare staffs. However, surgeries are currently limited to those able to be done under local anesthesia. Health financing and budget allocation will promote a wider range of surgeries offered to the public with the introduction of general anesthesia.

