

Bridging Government-private Sectors Through Surgical Outsourcing: A Sarawak Tertiary Centre Experience In Managing Backlog Cases Post COVID-19

Hanis AL, Adibah A, Rokayah J

Department of General Surgery, Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia



INTRODUCTION

Whilst the dynamic of the government and the private sector remained different in serving the health interest of the public, this narrative was forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A global study by the CovidSurg collaborative estimated a backlog of 151 717 surgeries in Malaysian hospitals during a 12-week period of hospital services disruption, which includes cancellation of elective cases, limited bed availability and a waiting period of one year for surgery for benign cases. In order to alleviate these burdens, the Government had begun outsourcing surgical services to private hospitals.

AIM

This is an audit on the cases outsourced to private hospitals in the year 2021 and 2022 from our centre

METHODS

General surgical cases outsourced to private hospitals from the year 2021 and 2022 were obtained and analysed. Types of procedures, nature of operations (elective or emergency) and nature of case (benign or malignant) were recorded.

RESULTS

230 cases were outsourced for 2021 and 2022

Out of 166 (72%) outsourced cases in

2021



64.8%
were elective cases



7.4%
were emergency cases

Out of 64 (28%) outsourced cases in

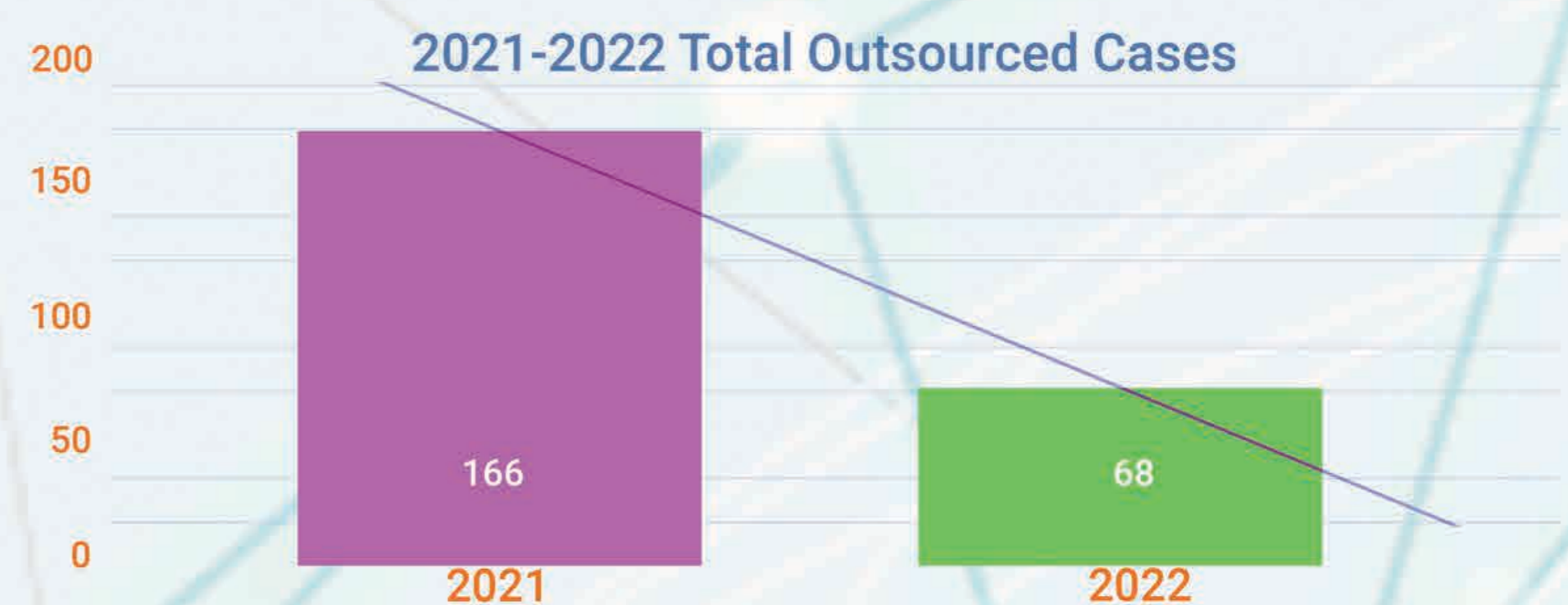
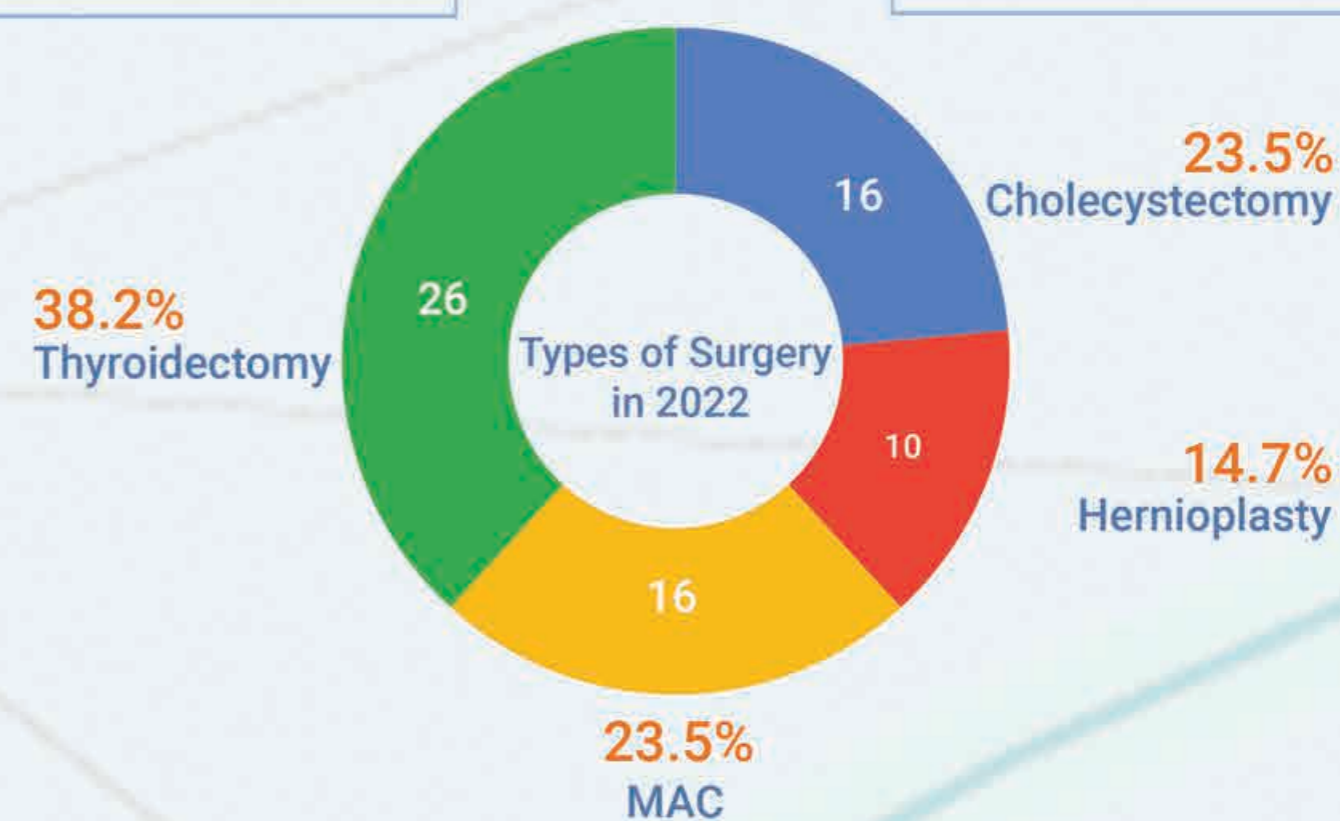
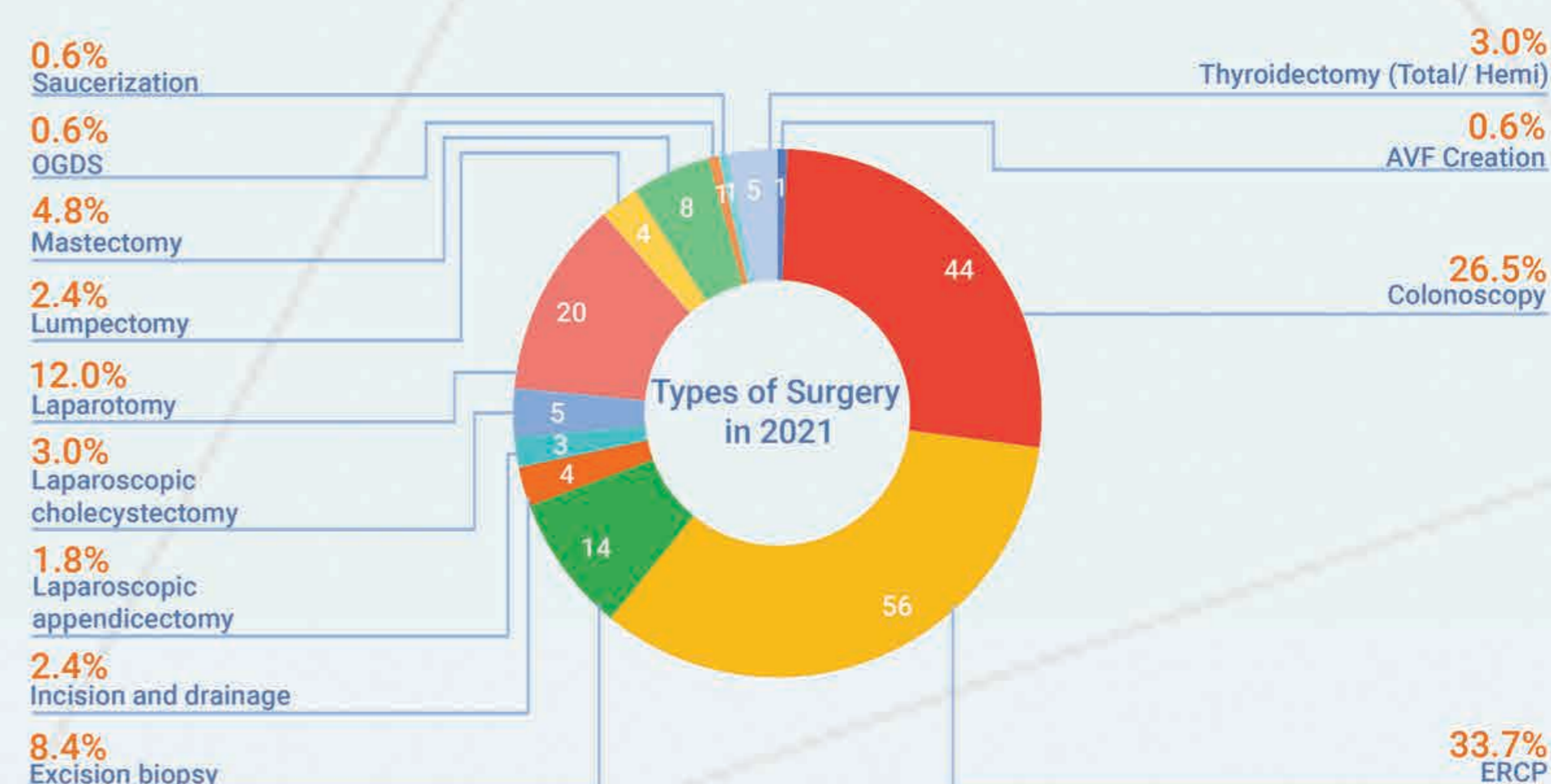
2022



64%
were benign in nature



36%
were malignant in nature



DISCUSSION

Despite the physical and emotional constraint caused by the pandemic, we were able to outsource fewer cases and fewer types of surgery in 2022 compared to 2021. This is due to the reopening of our operation theatres, hence less cases were needed to be outsourced to private centres. In 2022, our focus is mainly on elective cases with no emergency cases being outsourced as our service slowly recover. We were fairly successful in coping with the backlog of benign cases and at the same time prevent the further spread of COVID 19 by outsourcing.

CONCLUSION

The facilities and expertise provided by the private sectors were able to reduce the number of backlog cases. Inter-hospital collaborations, between public and private sectors, had proven to be instrumental in mitigating the surgical services disruption due to the pandemic.

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