

## Global Surgery Initiative at District Hospital in Kedah, Malaysia

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### Abstract

#### *Aim*

Baling District has been listed among the poorest districts in Kedah State in 2019 with access to the nearest tertiary centre is at least one hour travelling by car. Baling District Hospital (BDH) which acts as first-level hospital has been transferring on average 4 surgical cases out of 10 daily ambulance transfers for immediate intervention at specialist hospitals in 2021, ranging from General Surgery, Orthopaedic, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology cases. Global Surgery Initiative (GSI) which advocates equitable and timely access to surgical and anaesthesia services has been implemented at BDH since April 2022, making it the 9<sup>th</sup> hospital in Malaysia. This study aims to explore on (a) how GSI was implemented at BDH, (b) the challenges faced, and (c) how they were overcome.

#### *Methods*

This descriptive study used direct observation and review of administrative and operative records during GSI implementation at BDH from April to December 2022.

#### *Results*

Under GSI, 26 patients were operated at BDH under day-care elective surgery, involving general ( $n=10$ ), spinal ( $n=13$ ), and local ( $n=3$ ) anaesthesia. Majority are male patients ( $n=20$ ), age from 29 to 82 years old. Most patients are from Baling District (61.5%), whilst other districts including Sik, Hulu Perak, Kuala Muda, and Bandar Baharu were also recorded. Mostly performed procedures were herniorrhaphy ( $n=17$ ), followed by excision biopsy, mastectomy with axillary clearance, examination under anaesthesia (EUA) and seton insertion, secondary suturing, and circumcision.

#### *Conclusion*

Although resources are limited at start, further expansion of GSI at BDH is feasible with continuous support from top management and strengthening of hospital cluster initiative. Further study is needed to analyse the surgical burden and the impact of GSI at BDH.

*Keywords: Global Surgery, district hospital, surgery, anaesthesia*