

PAEDIATRIC SURGERY OUTREACH PROGRAM IN PAHANG: OUR EXPERIENCE IN GLOBAL SURGERY

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Introduction

Global surgery is the study and practice of improving access to timely, quality, and affordable surgical care. It encompasses all fields related to surgical care including surgical sub-specialties, anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, rehabilitation, palliative care, nursing and the allied health fields, among others. Improving the quality of and access to surgical care positively impacts the health and well-being of populations by returning people to good health with as little morbidity and mortality as possible.

Aim

We are a would like to report and share our efforts in Global Surgery here in Pahang. Mainly highlighting our difficulties, challenges faced and steps taken to remedy for improvement.

Methods

Data are collected retrospectively from 1st January until 31st December 2022 among patients who undergone operation in specialist hospitals in Pahang such as Hospital Pekan, Temerloh and Lipis. The number of emergency and elective operations done was collected.

Result

Collected data on number of operations done including elective and emergency in specialist hospitals in Pahang. Our outreach visiting is done on a monthly basis. Surgeries are performed by visiting Surgeons only.

Discussion

We provide global surgery as Pahang is a huge state with the area of 35,965 km² . We do monthly visiting to other hospitals. Cases which are stable are treated and monitored there, whereas emergency cases are taken over to HTAA for further management. Minor elective cases are done in their hospitals as well. With this, we are able to reduce the burden of patients to travel far for management, able to use the resources provided such as operation theatre and instruments, and able to reach out more patients. The difficulties we are facing are geography factor as each hospitals are placed far from each other, hospitals are far from certain housing areas where patients tend to have logistics issues. Lacking of manpower as only two paediatric surgeons covering the entire Pahang. Paediatrics Anaesthesia is also a variable factor. Trained peri-operative staff to care for post-op paediatric patients in wards. Improve daycare services in regional hospitals. Study by Tamlyn Mac Quene et all also showed similar difficulties as ours due to lack of manpower and to decentralize surgical services at tertiary hospital.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Paediatrics Surgical services in Pahang has long established an effort in global surgery in Pahang. Although faced with challenges however we are looking forward to improvement. By 2030, we should be able to cover the entire Pahang state. We are planning to get more paediatric surgeons and medical officers in our centre to increase the number of visiting to the minor specialist or non-specialist hospitals.