



# Resources & Opportunities for Global Surgery Research

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# Disclosures

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- No disclosures



# Finding Opportunities

Step 1:

Soul Search

Step 2:

Find a mentor

Step 3:

Show up and do  
the work

- Identify broad area of **specialty**  
(Peds, Gyne, Onc, Trauma, H&N, Gen Surg etc)
- Is there a **type** of research you are most interested in?  
(Quality, safety, outcomes, access, policy, epi etc)
- Is there a **geographical area** you want to work in?  
(West Africa, Haiti, South Asia, etc)

OWN IT!!!!

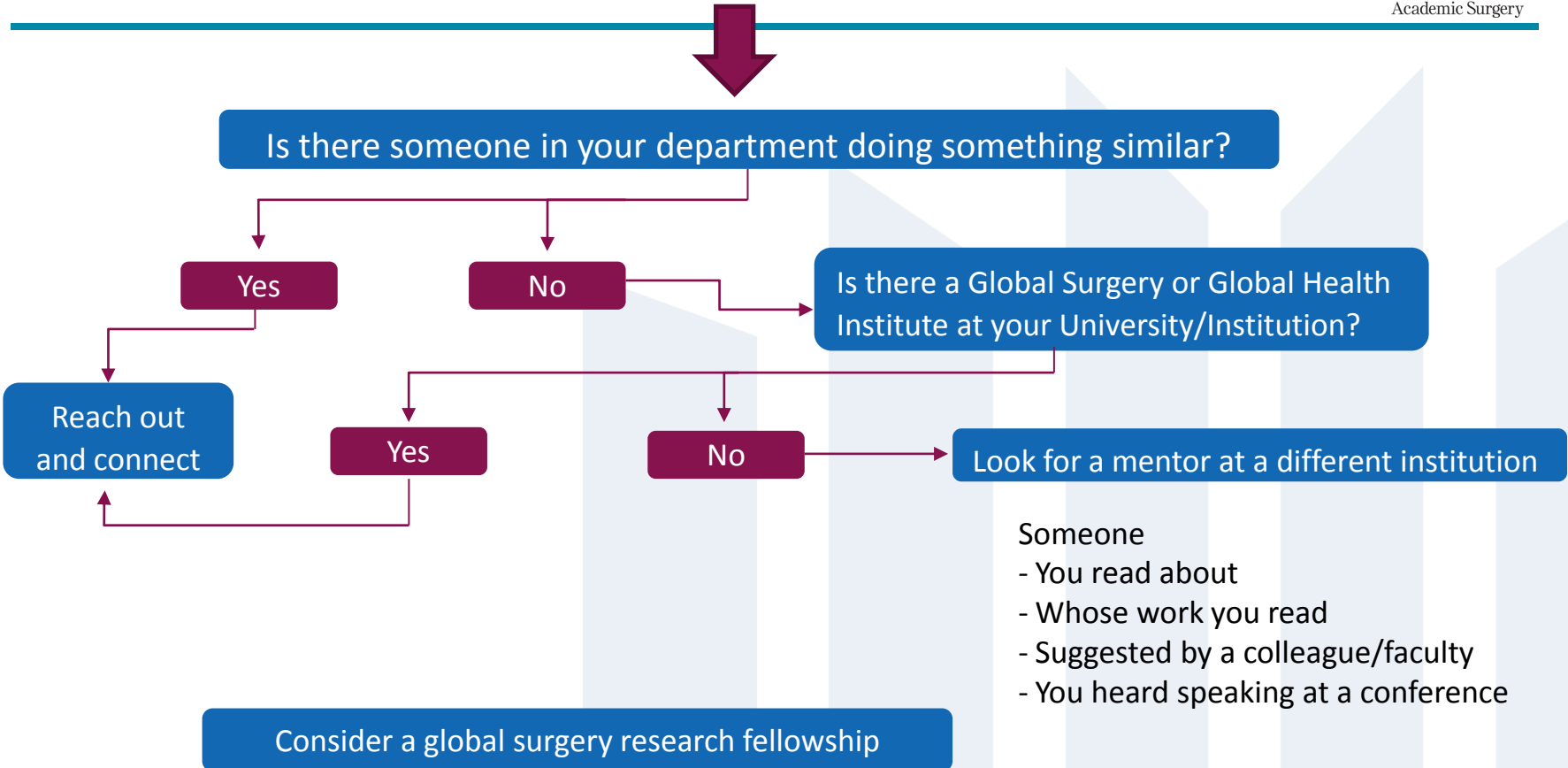


Step 1: Soul search

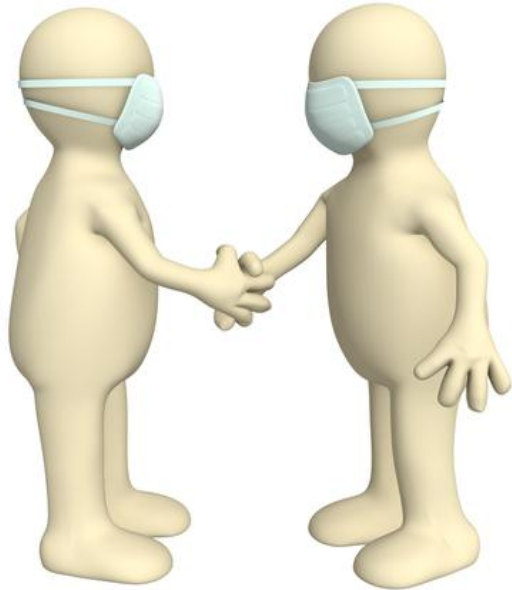
Step 2: Find a mentor

Step 3: Show up and do the work

ASSOCIATION OF  
Academic Surgeons



# What is the Style of the Mentor?



# Is the work motivated by Local Priorities?



# Finding Opportunities

## Step 1:

Soul Search

- Identify broad area of specialty
- Is there a **type** of research you are most interested in?
- Is there a geographical area you want to work in?

## Step 2:

Find a mentor

- Explore your department
- Explore your institution/university
- Reach outside your institution
- Consider a research fellowship

## Step 3:

Show up and do  
the work

- Continue training yourself
- Be creative, responsible, and persistent
- Stick to the excellent research and ethical standards



# Data for global surgery research.

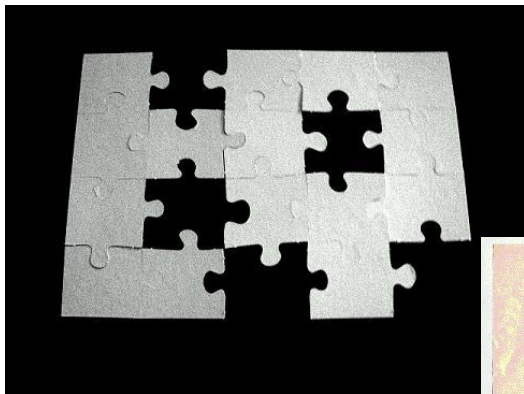


# IRB Process

- Local Hospital / University IRB - \$300
- National IRB - \$300
- US Institutional IRB -



# Primary Data is Sparse in LMIC



STATISTICAL RECORD

JOHN DENISON FRANKEN      *Notes*

Bull Name JOHN DENISON FRANKEN Age 25 Bull Breed Name VIRGINIA MATHILDA BAKER

Residence RD & HQ OO USAGAPIC APO 313 Residence 2nd Puchinobe, Japan

Classification as Military Stock SP-4 Condition House-wife

State/Province Kansas City, Missouri Date of Birth 5 Aug 35 Birthplace Inkwood, Ohio Date of Issue 16 Feb 35

Race Can Citizenship U.S.A. Race Can Origin U.S.A.

Place of Issuance Inkwood, Ohio Date of Issuance 30 May 59

Number of Previous Operations by Other Marriage 0 (None) Number of Operations During, Issuance Present 1 (One)

Height 5 Dia. 08 Eye

Length 1 Bl. 10 Inst.

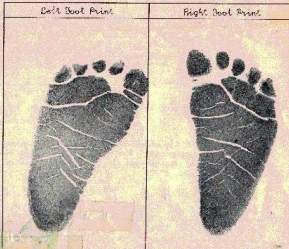
Sex Male

Skilled  Yes  No

Residence American Consulate Date

Location of Consulate

Left Foot Print      Right Foot Print



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NUMBER  
20150043821

DECEASED NAME  
**LORRAINE STRAIT**

DATE OF BIRTH 08/26/1927 SEX FEMALE DATE OF DEATH 11/26/2015

PLACE OF DEATH  
**NEWTON TOWN** COUNTY OF DEATH **SUSSEX**

RESIDENCE ADDRESS  
**28 PIERCE ROAD** SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE  
**ANDOVER TOWNSHIP** COUNTY OF RESIDENCE **SUSSEX**

DOMESTIC STATUS  
**MARRIED** SURVIVING SPOUSE/PARTNER **WILLIAM STRAIT**

MANNER OF DEATH **NATURAL**

CAUSE OF DEATH  
**CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE**

DATE ISSUED: **DECEMBER 1, 2015** AMENDED DATE:

DATE FILED WITH REGISTRAR: **11/30/2015**

ISSUED BY:  
**New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry**

Vincent T. Arns  
State Registrar  
Office of Vital Statistics and Registry

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS A COMPLEX SECURITY FEATURE TO DETER FRAUD: VOID IF ALTERED

# Medical Records are Often Paper Charts



# Local Prospective Databases



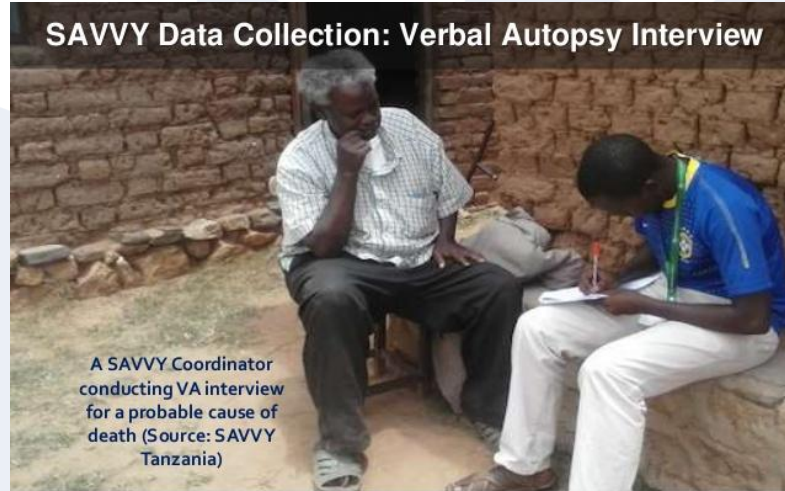
# Survey & Interview Data



# Verbal Autopsy



## SAVVY Data Collection: Verbal Autopsy Interview



A SAVVY Coordinator  
conducting VA interview  
for a probable cause of  
death (Source: SAVVY  
Tanzania)

# Existing data

World J Surg (2013) 37:1562–1570  
DOI 10.1007/s00268-012-1876-6



**Getting the Job Done: Analysis of the Impact and Effectiveness of the SmileTrain Program in Alleviating the Global Burden of Cleft Disease**

D. Poenaru





# Systematic reviews



Review

## Quality of essential surgical care in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of the literature

SAURABH SALLUJAN<sup>1</sup>,  
JULIA R. AMUNDS<sup>2</sup>,  
HILLARY JENNY<sup>1,3</sup>,  
RACHITA SOOD<sup>1,4</sup>

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Editorial Decision 17 May 2018; Accepted 12 June 2018

### Abstract

**Purpose:** Quality of care is an emerging area of focus in the surgical disciplines. However, much of the emphasis on quality is limited to high-income countries. To address this gap, we conducted a systematic review of the literature on the quality of essential surgical care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

**Data sources:** We searched PubMed, Cinahl, Embase and CAB Abstracts using three domains: quality of care, surgery and LMICs.

**Study selection:** We limited our review to studies of essential surgeries that pertained to all three search domains.

**Data extraction:** We extracted data on study characteristics, type of surgery and the way in which quality was studied.

**Results of data synthesis:** 354 studies were included. 281 (79.4%) were single-center studies and nearly half ( $n = 169$ , 46.9%) did not specify the level of facility. 207 studies reported on mortality (58.47%) and 325 reported on a morbidity (91.81%), most commonly surgical site infection ( $n = 190$ , 53.67%). Of the Institute of Medicine domains of quality, studies were most commonly of safety ( $n = 310$ , 87.57%) and effectiveness ( $n = 180$ , 50.85%) and least commonly of equity ( $n = 21$ , 5.93%).

**Conclusion:** We find that while there are numerous studies that report on some aspects of quality of care, much of the data is single center and observational. Additionally, there is variability on which outcomes are reported both within and across specialties. Finally, we find under-reporting of parameters of equity and timeliness, which may be critical areas for research moving forward.



ARTICLE

Quality of essential surgical care in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of the literature

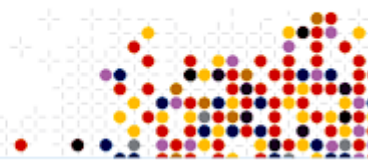
Saurabh Sallujan, Julia R. Amunds, Hillary Jenny, Rachita Sood, Bommaka Motwani, M. Christine Juill

From the Department of Surgery, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, San Diego, California; Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, Center for Global Surgery, San Francisco, California

KEYWORDS

Quality of care, surgery and LMICs  
April 2017  
received for  
2017  
September  
online 11 No

Keywords:  
Trauma  
Injury surveillance  
Trauma registry  
Quality improvement  
Implementation science  
Low- and middle-income countries



Sristi Sharma<sup>2,3,14</sup>, Isobel H Marks<sup>2,3,15</sup>,  
John G Meara<sup>2,3</sup>, Mark G Shrine<sup>2,18</sup>



WEB OF SCIENCE

Research

## Perioperative mortality rates in low-income countries: a global meta-analysis

Sarah L M Greenberg,<sup>2,3,5</sup>  
David Ljungman,<sup>2,3,8</sup> Rachel R Yorles,<sup>3</sup>  
Anniko Nikouline,<sup>10</sup> Francis Yi Xing Lai,<sup>11</sup>  
Amin Mahmood,<sup>9</sup> Sneha Raju,<sup>1</sup>  
Alexis Bowden,<sup>2,3,16</sup> Lebel Pi,<sup>17</sup>

**Abstract**  
**Introduction** The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery proposed the perioperative mortality rate (POMR) as one of the six key indicators of the strength of a country's surgical system. Despite its widespread use in high-income settings, few studies have described procedure-specific POMR across low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). We aimed to estimate POMR across a wide range of surgical procedures in LMICs. We also describe how POMR is defined and reported in the LMIC literature to provide recommendations for future monitoring in resource-constrained settings.  
**Methods** We did a systematic review of studies from LMICs published from 2009 to 2014 reporting POMR for any surgical procedure. We extracted select variables to duplicate from each included study and pooled estimates of POMR by type of procedure using random-effects meta-analysis of proportions and the Freeman-Tukey double arcsine transformation to stabilise variances.  
**Results** We included 985 studies conducted across 83 LMICs, covering 191 types of surgical procedures performed on 1 020 869 patients. Pooled POMR ranged from less than 0.1% for appendectomy, cholecystectomy and caesarean delivery to 20%–27% for typhoid intestinal perforation, intracranial haemorrhage and operative head injury. We found no consistent associations between procedure-specific POMR and Human Development Index (HDI) or income-group apart from emergency peripartum hysterectomy POMR, which appeared higher in low-income countries. Inpatient mortality was the most commonly used definition, though only 46.2% of studies explicitly defined the time frame during which deaths accrued.

### Key questions

#### What is already known?

- ▶ Previous systematic reviews of anaesthetic mortality and mortality in specific surgical populations have shown decreasing mortality trends over time and differences by world region.
- ▶ Geographical differences have similarly been reported in cohort studies such as the GlobalSurg I study, the European Surgical Outcomes Study and the African Surgical Outcomes Study.

#### What are the new findings?

- ▶ This is the first systematic review to attempt broad baseline estimation of perioperative mortality rate (POMR) across procedures and describe how low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) authors define POMR.
- ▶ We show here that POMR varies widely by procedure or diagnosis; further, we show significant variation in how POMR is reported, limiting comparisons across contexts.

#### What do the new findings imply?

- ▶ POMR is widely used and reported in all contexts; to promote its utility as a standardised surgical safety indicator, greater specificity in the types of procedures assessed and the way in which data are collected, risk adjusted and reported is required.

### INTRODUCTION

# Publicly available data

An estimation  
strategy b

Thomas G Weiser, Scott

Summary

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middle-income countries, especially in the Middle East and Asia. With the so-called epidemiological transition that has accompanied industrialisation, disorders afflicting populations are shifting from diseases of pestilence and infection that are an indicator of pre-industrial societies to those that are identified in industrialised and rising economies.<sup>27</sup> Ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, cancers, and mental illness have all risen substantially in low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries.<sup>28</sup> Injuries also account for a large and growing amount of the disease burden as vehicular traffic



## GLOBOCAN 2012

ESTIMATED CANCER INCIDENCE, MORTALITY AND PREVALENCE WORLDWIDE IN 2012

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Higashi ·  
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hospital operating theatre involving the incision, excision, regional or general anaesthesia or sedation. We created a mc

ographic

### Abstract

**Background** Inj burden of disease burden of injury (LMICs) that cot were made avr population.

**Methods** We examined all causes of injury from the Global Burden of Disease 2010 Study. We split the disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for these conditions between surgically “avertable” and “nonavertable” burdens. For estimating the avertable fatal burden, we applied the lowest fatal

Electronic supplen article (doi:10.1007 material, which is a

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World Journal of Surgery



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS  
OF COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

potentially avertable by basic surgical care (52.3 million DALYs). The avertable proportion was greater for deaths than for nonfatal burden (23 vs. 20 %), suggesting that surgical services for injuries more effectively save lives than ameliorate disability. Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest avertable burden (25 %), followed by South America (21 %), and high-income countries (17.4 %). The avertable DALYs (17.4 million) have the potential to play a major role in reducing the injury-related burden in



## World Health Organization

Because of this epidemiological transition, surgery will assume an increasing role in public health. In view of its complexity and risks, an understanding of the quantity and distribution of surgical interventions is therefore essential to guide efforts to improve its safety and redress shortages of such services. As part of WHO's patient safety programme,<sup>29</sup> we aimed to estimate the number of major operations undertaken worldwide, to describe their distribution, and to assess the importance of surgical care in global public-health policy.

Methods



injuries, and Risk Factors for Injuries accounted for 11 % of the total disease burden globally (2,490 million deaths and 279 million DALYs) globally

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# Secondary analysis of collected data

## Global operating theatre distribution and pulse oximetry supply: an estimation from reported data

Luke M Funk, Thomas G Weiser, William R Berry, Stuart R Lipsitz, Alan F Merry, Angela C Enright, Iain H Wilson, Gerald Dziekan, Atul A Gawande

### Summary

**Background** Surgery is an essential part of health care, but resources to ensure the availability of surgical services are often inadequate. We estimated the global distribution of operating theatres and quantified the availability of pulse oximetry, which is an essential monitoring device during surgery and a potential measure of operating theatre resources.

**Methods** We calculated ratios of the number of operating theatres to hospital beds in seven geographical regions worldwide on the basis of profiles from 769 hospitals in 92 countries that participated in WHO's safe surgery saves lives initiative. We used hospital bed figures from 190 WHO member states to estimate the number of operating theatres per 100 000 people in 21 subregions throughout the world. To estimate availability of pulse oximetry, we sent surveys to anaesthesia providers in 72 countries selected to ensure a geographically and demographically diverse sample. A predictive regression model was used to estimate the pulse oximetry need for countries that did not provide data.

**Findings** The estimated number of operating theatres ranged from 1.0 (95% CI 0.9–1.2) per 100 000 people in west sub-Saharan Africa to 25.1 (20.9–30.1) per 100 000 in eastern Europe. High-income subregions all averaged more than 14 per 100 000 people, whereas all low-income subregions, representing 2.2 billion people, had fewer than two theatres per 100 000. Pulse oximetry data from 54 countries suggested that around 77 700 (63 195–95 533) theatres worldwide (19.2% [15.2–23.9]) were not equipped with pulse oximeters.

**Interpretation** Improvements in public-health strategies and monitoring are needed to reduce disparities for more than 2 billion people without adequate access to surgical care.

**Funding** WHO.

### Introduction

Illnesses that need surgical treatment account for a substantial amount of the global burden of disease. Conservative estimates suggest that 11% of the world's disability-adjusted life years are attributable to diseases that are often treated with surgery.<sup>1</sup> Heart and cerebrovascular diseases are the top two causes of death worldwide, cancer is one of the five principal causes of mortality, and injuries from road traffic accidents are among the top ten causes of death.<sup>2</sup> Other surgically treatable disorders such as obstructed labour,<sup>3</sup> obstetric fistulas,<sup>4</sup> and congenital birth defects<sup>5</sup> are major causes of morbidity and mortality in the developing world. As health-care systems in developing regions confront an ageing population with an increased frequency of non-communicable diseases,<sup>6</sup> the extent of surgical need will increase substantially. Africa and southeast Asia are already

Asia suggest substantial shortages in anaesthesia and surgical resources.<sup>7–10</sup> However, we know little about these shortages, especially with respect to availability of functioning surgical facilities or staff and equipment levels. Therefore, we aimed to estimate and compare the regional densities and distributions of operating theatres worldwide.

We also sought a simple indicator of availability of anaesthesia and surgical equipment within surgical facilities. We identified pulse oximetry as a component of safe anaesthesia and surgery that is internationally recognised to be essential,<sup>11,12</sup> yet is often unavailable in low-income settings.<sup>13,14</sup> Therefore, availability of pulse oximetry was used as a proxy for adequacy of operating theatre equipment supply because of this scarcity in low-income settings,<sup>15</sup> and because international organisations, such as the World Federation of Societies of



Lancet 2010; 376: 1055–61

Published Online

July 1, 2010

DOI:10.1016/S0140-

6736(10)60392-3

See Editorial page 1025

See Comment page 1027

See Perspectives page 1045

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Correspondence to: Dr Luke M Funk, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02115, USA

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## Surgical care needs of low-resource populations: an estimate of the prevalence of surgically treatable conditions and avoidable deaths in 48 countries

Shailvi Gupta, Reinou S Groen, Patrick Kyamanywa, Emmanuel A Ameh, Mohamed Labib, Damian L Clarke, Peter Donkor, Miliard Derbew, Rachid Sani, Thaim B Kamara, Sunil Shrestha, Benedict C Nwomeh, Sherry M Wren, Raymond R Price, Adam L Kushner

### Abstract

**Background** Surgical care needs in low-resource countries are increasingly recognised as an important aspect of global health, yet data for the size of the problem are insufficient. The Surgeons Overseas Assessment of Surgical Need (SOSAS) is a population-based cluster survey previously used in Nepal, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

**Methods** Using previously published SOSAS data from three resource-poor countries (Nepal, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone), a weighted average of overall prevalence of surgically treatable conditions was estimated and the number of deaths that could have been avoided by providing access to surgical care was calculated for the broader community of low-resource countries. Such conditions included, but were not limited to, injuries (road traffic incidents, falls, burns, and gunshot or stab wounds), masses (solid or soft, reducible), deformities (congenital or acquired), abdominal distention, and obstructed delivery. Population and health expenditure per capita data were obtained from the World Bank. Low-resource countries were defined as those with a per capita health expenditure of US\$100 or less annually. The overall prevalence estimate from the previously published SOSAS data was extrapolated to each low-resource country. Using crude death rates for each country and the calculated proportion of avoidable deaths, a total number of deaths possibly averted in the previous year with access to appropriate surgical care was calculated.

**Findings** The overall prevalence of surgically treatable conditions was 11.16% (95% CI 11.15–11.17) and 25.6% (95% CI 25.4–25.7) of deaths were potentially avoidable by providing access to surgical care. Using these percentages for the 48 low-resource countries, an estimated 288.2 million people are living with a surgically treatable condition and 5.6 million deaths could be averted annually by the provision of surgical care. In the Nepal SOSAS study, the observed agreement between self-reported verbal responses and visual physical examination findings was 94.6%. Such high correlation helps to validate the SOSAS tool.

**Interpretation** Hundreds of millions of people with surgically treatable conditions live in low-resource countries, and about 25% of the mortality annually could be avoided with better access to surgical care. Strengthening surgical care must be considered when strengthening health systems and in setting future sustainable development goals.

**Funding** None.

### Contributors

SG, ALK, RSG, and BCN conceived and designed the study. SG, RSG, SS, TBK, PK, and ALK collected the data. SG, RSG, and ALK interpreted the data. SG and ALK wrote the Abstract. All authors approve the final version of the Abstract for publication.

### Declaration of interests

We declare no competing interests.

Published Online

April 27, 2015

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## Disparities in Access to Surgical Care within a Lower Income Country: An Alarming Inequity

Syed Nabeel Zafar · Zafar Fatmi · Aftab Iqbal ·  
Roomasa Channa · Adil H. Haider

Published online: 1 August 2012  
© Société Internationale de Chirurgie 2012

### Abstract

**Background** Surgical care is not uniformly available worldwide. Inequities in surgical care and access may also vary within countries, and the present study aimed to explore these disparities in Pakistan.

**Methods** The National Health Survey of Pakistan was analyzed. The proportion of people with a history of abdominal surgery (AS) was calculated and associated factors were determined by weighted multivariate logistic regression. Factors tested were age, gender, urban/rural residence, province, literacy, community development index (CDI), and economic status (ES). The CDI was developed for each sampling unit from select household and individual data. The ES was constructed from ownership of assets.

**Results** A total of 59 million adults were represented. Abdominal surgery had been performed in 3.2 % adults (95 % confidence interval [CI] = 2.67, 3.84), which corresponded to an annual rate of 85.9 abdominal surgeries per

100,000 population. Wide disparities were noted, with annual rates of AS varying from 37.8 to 215.6 per 100,000 population. Urban residents were independently twice as likely as rural populations to have had AS (95 % CI = 1.3, 2.8). Higher age (OR = 2.6; 95 % CI = 1.7, 4.0), female gender (OR = 1.5; 95 % CI = 1.1, 2.1), and higher ES (OR = 1.9; 95 % CI = 1.2, 2.9) were also independently associated with AS. In rural populations ES was the only factor associated with surgery, whereas in urban populations gender and CDI had important roles to play.

**Conclusions** Access to surgical care is disparate and grossly inadequate in Pakistan. This likely contributes to significant preventable morbidity and death. Physical access to surgical facilities, especially in rural areas and for those with a low CDI, is an important concern and should be prioritized in any forthcoming national policies.

### Introduction

Surgery is an essential component of healthcare. Provision of acute surgical care, including trauma and obstetrics, and even elective procedures focused on correcting cataracts or club foot prevent significant disability and premature death [1]. Surgical disease accounts for at least 11 % of the world's disability adjusted life years (DALYS) [1] and is no longer considered a luxury. Multiple studies have shown the provision of essential surgery to be a highly cost-

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## Regional Gradients in Institutional Cesarean Delivery Rates: Evidence from Five Countries in Asia

Ardeshir Sepehri, PhD, and Harminder Guliani, PhD

**ABSTRACT: Background:** *Although the influence of the type of institutional setting on the risk of cesarean birth is well documented, less is known about the regional variations in institution-specific cesarean rates within countries. Our purpose was to examine regional variations in cesarean rates across public and private facilities in five Asian countries with a sizeable private sector: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Methods:* Demographic Health Survey data and a hierarchical model were used to assess regional variations in the mode of delivery while controlling for a wide range of socioeconomic, demographic, and maternal risk factors. **Results:** *The risk of cesarean birth was greater in a private facility than in a government hospital by 36–48 percent in India and Indonesia and by 130 percent in Bangladesh. Regional gradients in cesarean birth were found to be steeper for deliveries in private facilities than in government hospitals in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The residents of India's high-use states were 55 percent more likely to undergo a cesarean delivery in a government hospital and 83 percent more likely in a private facility than their counterparts in the medium-use states. Similarly, compared to the residents of the Philippines's medium-use provinces, giving birth in a government facility increased the likelihood of a cesarean delivery by 84 percent and by 173 percent in a private facility. Conclusions:* Large regional variations in cesarean rates suggest the need for more informed clinical decision making with respect to the selection of cases for cesarean delivery and the establishment of well-developed guidelines and standards at the provincial or state levels. (BIRTH 44:1 March 2017)

**Key words:** cesarean section, institutional setting, regional variations

# Your own experiences

## Who? Me?



surgeons are an entity, and will be for the foreseeable future, in particular in these short-term stints [8]. This article deals with practical and ethical considerations for pediatric surgeons participating in short-term global health volunteer activities. The authors have participated in volunteer activities in Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, India, the Middle East, and the Far East. Two of the authors (DM, JA) have lived and worked for extended periods in African LMIC hospitals where they have also been hosts for HIC volunteers. The recommendations are therefore written from the standpoint of both pediatric surgical volunteers and the hosts of these volunteers.

- appropriate procedures so that children can be successfully treated locally by the national doctors after the volunteer has returned home [10,11].
- 1.3 Other volunteers are motivated by the desire to create or strengthen a global pediatric surgical partnership where both the host and volunteer visitor learn from each other and where the partnership leads to improvement in pediatric surgical care for children globally [12].
  - 1.4 Still other volunteers want to create partnerships to enhance meaningful translational research projects to improve pediatric surgical care globally [13].
  - 1.5 With the decreased surgical exposure to "index cases" for HIC general surgery residents and pediatric surgery fellows, some

\* Corresponding author. Tel: +1 915 215 5323; fax: +1 915 545 6864.



# Funding Opportunities



# Grants

- AAS global surgery grants
  - Training Grants
  - Fogarty / NIH
  - Local Institution grants
  - Fund Raising
- 

# Training Opportunities





# Fellowship examples

- Paul Farmer Global Surgery Research Fellowship
- Paul Farmer Global Surgery Clinical Fellowship
- Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Global Surgery Fellowship
- International Surgical Oncology Global Cancer Disparities Fellowship – MSKCC
- Northwestern Trauma & Surgical Initiative
- VECD Global health Fellowship - Fogarty
- Global Surgery Research Fellowship- University of Utah
- UCSF center for global surgical studies
- Global surgery research program – Brigham and Women’s Hospital
  
- Many more research and fellowships opportunities.....

# Conferences/Meetings



**OPERATION  
GIVINGBACK**  
American College of Surgeons

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



**West African College of Surgeons**  
(KNOWLEDGE, HEALTH AND UNITY)  
**Collège Ouest Africain des Chirurgiens**  
(SAVOIR, SANTE ET UNITE)



**COSECSA**

College of Surgeons of  
East, Central and Southern Africa

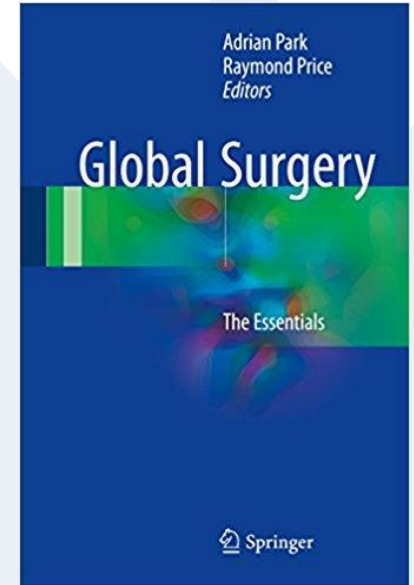
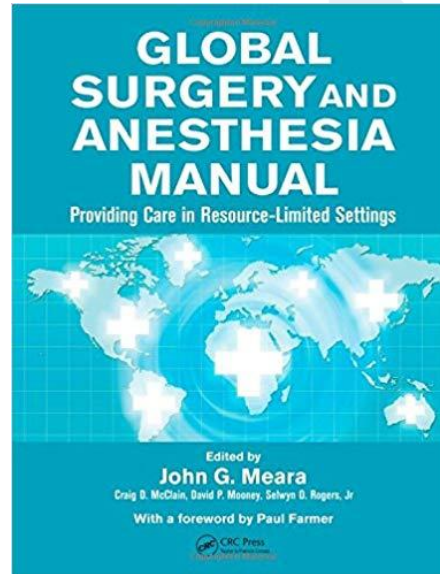
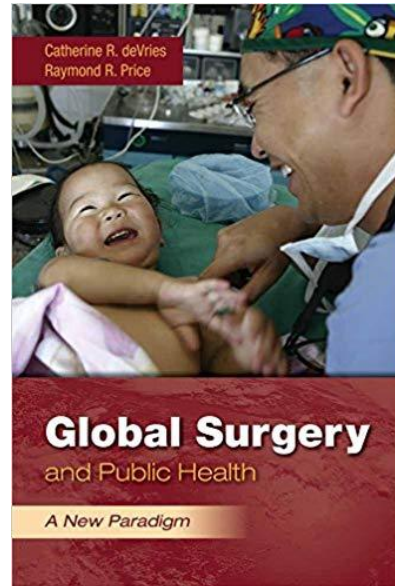
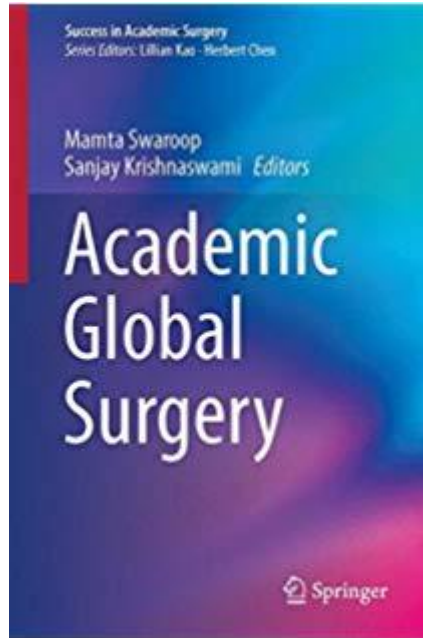
**BETHUNE**  
**ROUND TABLE 2018**



Consortium of  
Universities  
for Global Health



# Books



Thank you