

International E-Conference on

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The Magnitude of Major Emergency Surgical procedures performed by Emergency Surgical Officer at primary health care facilities in Ethiopia

Background: Surgical and obstetric emergencies are a major cause of death in Ethiopia. Maternal and infant mortality from perinatal complications remain unacceptably high. The contributing factors for the unmet need of essential emergency surgical services were from serious shortage of surgically trained health work force, poor infrastructure and in adequate supplies. WHO and member countries have given great emphasis delivering essential and emergency surgical services integrating with other primary health care packages. Since 2010 by introducing the Integrated Emergency Surgical Officers (IESO) which is a newly introduced task sharing program by training midlevel health professionals (health officers and Bsc nurses), Ethiopian government has been working to strengthen entire health system to improve the delivery of emergency surgical and obstetric and anesthesia care to the rural community.

Aim: to show the magnitude of major surgical procedures performed by Emergency surgical officers and the impact/success of task sharing program in Ethiopia

Method: -Cross-sectional survey was conducted by sending questionnaire to 244 facilities where only Emergency surgical officer professionals are deployed (ESO only sites) in the country. The response was 194(79.5%). One year data was collected(June 2019 to July 2020)

Result: - A total of 194 ESO only sites were involved (30 HCs and 164 PH) in this survey, in which 402 ESO professionals were found working in the facilities. In these health facilities the total catchment population was estimated to be close to 11 million (minimum 1 HC for 25,000 and 1 PH for 60,000 population). During the study period there were a total of 64272 Major surgery procedures performed. Cesarean Section was the major procedure which accounts for 30614(47.60%) of the of the major emergency surgery procedures followed by appendectomy 15230(23.70%) and laparotomy done for traumatic and non traumatic acute abdomen 13300 (20.70%). In all facilities a total of 130 laparotomies for uterine rupture were performed.

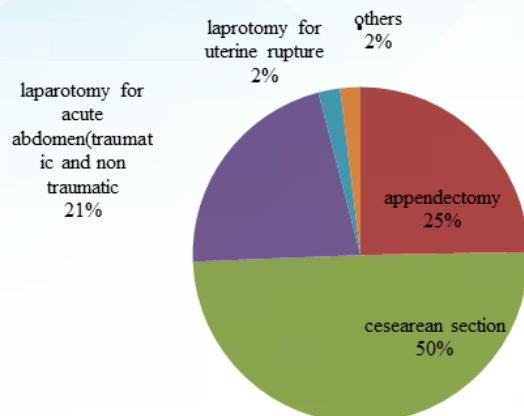


Fig. common emergency surgical procedures performed by emergency surgical officers of Ethiopia in primary health care facilities (from June 2019-july 2020).

From the total of 1197 major complications seen in all post operation procedures reported by ESO professionals wound infections was the leading which accounts 928(77.5%) followed by hemorrhage, Anesthesia related complications and anastigmatic leak, accounted 113(9.4%), 29(4.24%), and 27(2.25%) respectively. This rate of complication is comparable to medically qualified obstetric/surgical teams elsewhere.

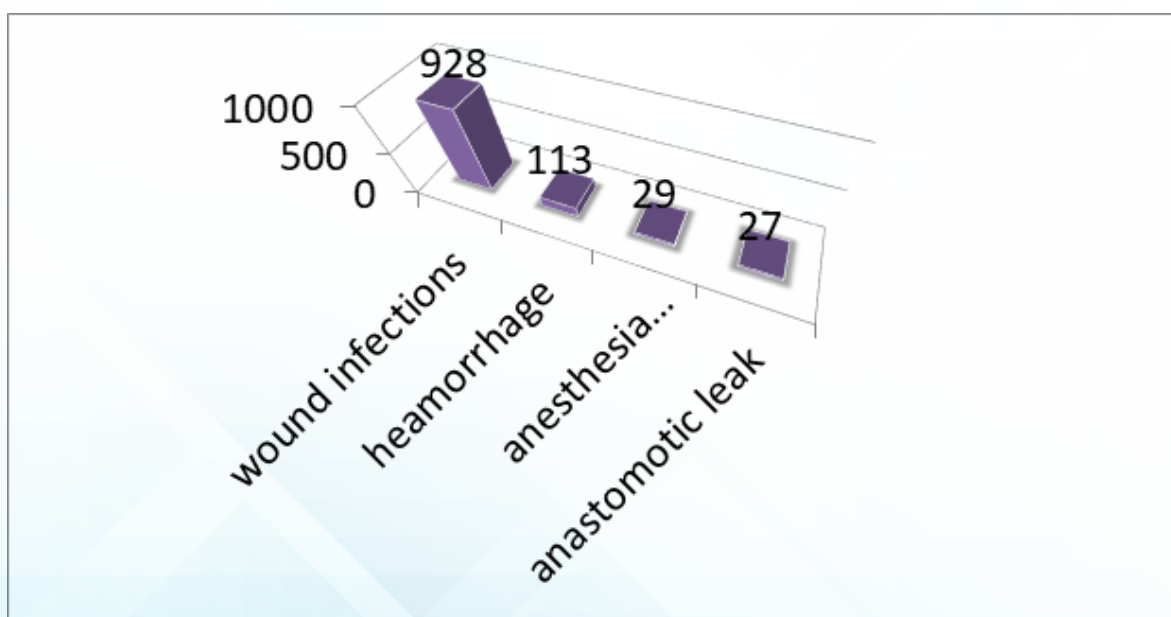


Fig 2. Common post operative complications reported during the study period.

During this period, the total maternal death after cesarean delivery was 139 and perinatal deaths 215 reported. Hemorrhage was the leading cause for maternal death and birth asphyxia for perinatal death. Excluding maternal deaths, there were a total of 218 post operation deaths

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happened after all major surgical procedures. The major challenges reported by the facilities were inadequate/shortage of medical supplies, unavailability of blood bank, electric city accounting 45%,34%,21% respectively.

Conclusions: the assessment found that majority of the facilities providing emergency surgical services in the country are being led by emergency surgery professional specialist by which accessibility of essential surgical serves has been remarkably improved. To maintain the accessibility and quality of the services adequate supplies, blood bank and electricity should be available. More over to retain these professional at rural area their concerns like future academic path, incentive packages need to be well addressed.

Key words; emergency surgical officers, essential surgical services, primary health care facilities

Biography:

Melese Takele wossen has been working as president of professional association for emergency surgical officers of Ethiopia (PAESOE) since March 2016. He owned his bachelor's degree in public health officer from university of Gondar and master's degree in integrated emergency general surgery and obstetrics/gynecology from Mekelle university in Feb. 2012. Melese has been certified /licensed emergency surgery professional specialist and since his graduation he has been engaged in providing emergency and essential surgical services to community at primary hospital. He is strong advocators of task sharing programs and believes it is the ideal solution for serious shortage of conventionally trained medical specialists in LMIC. He has attended so many high-level global conferences and shared the best experiences of task sharing program and the significant role of emergency surgical officers towards the reduction maternal death in Ethiopia. He is highly passionate in delivering surgical services to the underserved community and he has also profound interest to be involved public health and clinical research activities.