

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	ASSESSING DELAYED SURGICAL INTERVENTION AS AN INDICATOR OF THE PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
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	Measuring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
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Content

ABSTRACT Background: Delays in surgical intervention for patients requiring surgery is the unintentional failure for a surgery to be performed as scheduled. The causes are a reflection of the current level of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 3. Objective: To assess the causes and impact of delayed surgical intervention among patients who require surgery in the surgical wards. Methods: The research was conducted in Bungoma County Referral Hospital, Kenya surgical wards and operating theatre. The study design used was prospective. The target population included the patients in the surgical wards and the staff in the surgical wards and the operating theatre. Data collection was through questionnaires, interviews and direct observation. Analysis was done through Microsoft Excel and then presented in the form of figures. graphs, tables, and percentages. Results: 36% of all the patients in the surgical wards who needed surgery experienced delayed surgical intervention which mostly ranged between 6 to 20 days. The highest causes of these delays were financial constraints (54.8%) and lack of theatre space (27.8%). The effects included prolonged hospitalization (100%), additional costs (100%) and inconvenience (87%) among patients. The staff reported low morale, overworking and inconvenience while the hospital incurred additional costs and had a negative public image. Conclusion: This study, which is representative of developing countries, reveals that SDG 1 (no poverty) and 3 (good health and well being) have not been adequately achieved. Recommendations: Funding of healthcare, more health insurance coverage and alleviation of poverty should be done.