

Outros

(1107) - THE GROWTH OF NEUROSURGERY IN EAST AFRICA: CHALLENGES

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While the burden of surgical disease in low and middle income countries (LMICs) has been growing as fast as their industrial development, and despite that surgery has been shown to be cost effective, global health policies have historically prioritized communicable diseases. About 6 million people die each year as a result of trauma, accounting for 10% of the world's deaths — 32% more than the number of deaths from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined. Furthermore, according to the 2010 report of the global burden of disease (GBD) study, 89% of these deaths occur in low and middle income (LMIC) countries.

The purpose of this work is to portray the specific challenges of developing neurosurgical systems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), using Tanzania as a paradigm. We have grouped these challenges into 5 categories: (1) the burden of surgical disease and the workforce crisis; (2) the global health view of surgery as "the neglected stepchild"; (3) the need for recognizing the surgical system as an interdependent network and the importance of organizational and equipment deficits; (4) the lack of education of the community, the failure of the primary care systems and the net result of overwhelming of the tertiary care systems; (5) the recognition of personal and professional burnout, as well as "brain drain" of promising human resources from LMICs in Eastern Africa and similar regions across the world.

The first author who has spent 1 year in sub-Saharan Africa working as pediatric neurosurgeon performs the analysis of the problem.

Palavras-chave : brain drain; burden of disease; East Africa; global neurosurgery; workforce crisis.