



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 399

Submitting author: Dr Hiu Man CHU

Post title: Associate Consultant, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, HKEC

**Audit on Timeliness of Access to Surgery for Patients Categorized as
“Desperate”**

Chu HM(1), Teoh GS(1), Chu CY(1)

Anaesthesia, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

Keywords:

Audit

Desperate

Emergency

Timeliness

Introduction

Timing of surgical intervention is critical for outcomes of emergency operations, particularly for life-saving procedures. With the existing resources we have in our operating theatre, “Desperate” cases are generally expected to be done within 1 hour from the time of booking.

Objectives

To audit the efficiency of Operating Theatre Management of Emergency case booked under the category of “Desperate”. The appropriateness of the categorization, pressure on day-time schedule lists and the coping ability of operating theatre to handle these desperate cases with the present resources are also evaluated.

Methodology

All emergency operations booked under the category of “Desperate” during the 1st May, 2012 to 31st October, 2012 were included. The case anaesthetists and the auditors filled up the form designed by the auditors including various important timing of all the operations done in the period above.

Result

During the above period, 126 cases were booked under the category of desperate in the hospital emergency operation system. Among them 4 cases were cancelled and 122 booked cases completed. Cancellation rate is 3.17%. Anaesthetists were involved in care of 120 cases. 2 cases were performed under local anaesthesia. Among the 120 cases, 96 cases (80%) were sent to operating theatre within 60mins after informing the anaesthetists. After eliminating the 6 delayed cases with the reasons being “Patient transferred from RH”, “Case initially not booked as desperate” and “surgical decision”, 85% of cases were sent to operating theatre within 60 minutes. This reflects high efficiency of the emergency team in preparation for desperate cases. This audit showed that 80% of the cases booked as “Desperate” could arrive in operating theatre within one hour of the team being informed. With better communication and appropriate booking, this percentage raises to 85%.

Despite the good figure, there is room of improvement. With extra manpower and resources, further 9% of cases may be done "on-time".