

Study protocol

Title:	From short-term surgical missions towards sustainable partnerships A survey among members of foreign teams and local doctors involved in surgical missions.
Study Protocol number:	2019-05
Date of protocol approval:	May 15 th 2019, by the board of Global Surgery Amsterdam
Study type:	Survey The content of the survey is provided below in this study protocol
Initiating organization:	Global Surgery Amsterdam (GSA) www.globalsurgeryamsterdam.com
Collaborating organization:	ICOPLAST www.icoplast.org
General information:	<p>Particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), surgical missions are conducted on a large scale to provide surgical care. Annually, an estimated 313 million US dollars is spent on surgical missions. Typical missions are short-term, lasting up to several weeks. However, currently we know very little about the actual impact of these missions, including patient outcomes and strategies to make missions more sustainable.</p> <p>Therefore we developed an online survey. It is a first step in identifying what is currently being done and what should be done according to the respondent's experiences. The answers are used to provide more clarity on today's practices of short-term missions and to provide recommendations for the future.</p> <p>The survey consists of 21 questions.</p> <p>Outcomes will be anonymized.</p>
Participants:	Members of foreign teams and local doctors involved in surgical missions.
Start of distribution:	June 2019, by email within the network of GSA and ICOPLAST
End of enrollment:	October 2019
Ethical clearance:	Not required for this study type



A survey for international and local team members involved in surgical missions in LMICs.
Developed by ICOPLAST and Global Surgery Amsterdam

www.icoplast.org

www.globalsurgeryamsterdam.com

Background:

We all aim for improving outcomes of our patients all around the globe. Many of our patients suffer from conditions that can be treated with (reconstructive) surgery. Particularly in low- and middle-income countries, surgical missions are conducted on a large scale to provide this type of care. Annually, an estimated 313 million US dollars is spent on surgical missions. Typical missions are short-term, lasting up to several weeks.

However, currently we know very little about the actual impact of these missions, including patient outcomes and future strategies (Hendriks et al., 2019).

Therefore we developed this questionnaire. It is a first step in identifying what is currently being done and what should be done, according to your valuable experiences in the field. Your data is used to provide more clarity on today's practices of short-term missions.

The questionnaire consists of 21 questions. Please select one answer, and further clarify in the comment box if applicable.

Note: we may ask additional questions in the future if you approve us to contact you.
Outcomes will be anonymized.

Your function *

☐ Nurse / physician assistant (Please specify below)

☐ Plastic surgeon

☐ Orthopedic surgeon

☐ General surgeon

☐ Other surgeon (Please specify below)

☐ Policy officer NGO (Please specify below)

☐ Board member NGO

☐ Other...

Q1. Name *

Short answer text

Q2. Age: *

Short answer text

Q3. Sex: *

Short answer text

Q4. Email address: *

Short answer text

Q5. Nationality: *

Short answer text

Q6. How many missions did you perform in your life? *

Short answer text

Q7. Country where you performed your last surgical mission: *

Short answer text

Q8. Name of the hospital and town: *

Short answer text

Q9. Name of the NGO that supported this mission: *

Short answer text

Q10. Country where this NGO is based: *

Short answer text

Q11. Please give points over the following potential activities of a visiting team (more points means a more important activity) *

	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
Provide surgical equipment and consumables for the local team, also for use after the mission left	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide free treatments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treat patients yourself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitate teaching of local staff (doctors and/or nurses)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12. Is there, in your opinion, an activity missing in question 11? (please explain what activity is important and why) *

Long answer text

Q13. Should medical registration in the host country be required for specialists performing short-term surgical missions? *

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Long answer text

Q14. When medical registration was required for your last mission, the process to obtain the documents was straightforward.

*

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Long answer text

Q15. What can you say about the collaboration between authorities in LMICs (like the Ministry of Health, the district health management or the national surgical society) and visiting surgical teams?

*

- ☐ There is no collaboration and it should be developed as a priority
- ☐ Collaboration is present but improvement is needed
- ☐ Collaboration has no benefits nor disadvantages
- ☐ Collaboration will likely be more harmful than beneficial for the mission

Comments:

Long answer text

Q16. What should have a higher priority in the hospital of your last mission ? Teaching in anesthesia care or teaching in surgical care?

*

- ☐ Anesthesia care
- ☐ Reconstructive care
- ☐ General surgical care
- ☐ Other surgical care (please specify in comments)

Comments:

Long answer text

Q17. A structured follow-up strategy (>6 months) of patients is required for short-term surgical missions.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Long answer text

Q18. One month after the mission, an official report on the outcome including all complications encountered is recommended for all surgical missions. *

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Long answer text

Q19. A written long-term strategy (>5 years) with clear goals, developed by the visiting team and the local actors together, is recommended at the start of a new project. *

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Long answer text

Q20. What would you suggest to improve the impact of short term surgical missions? *

Long answer text

Q21. Hereby I give consent to use this data for publication. The purpose of this publication is to provide more insight into short-term surgical missions

☐ Yes

☐ No