



Reasons for Surgical Referral in Rural Ethiopian Hospitals

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Disclosures

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Background



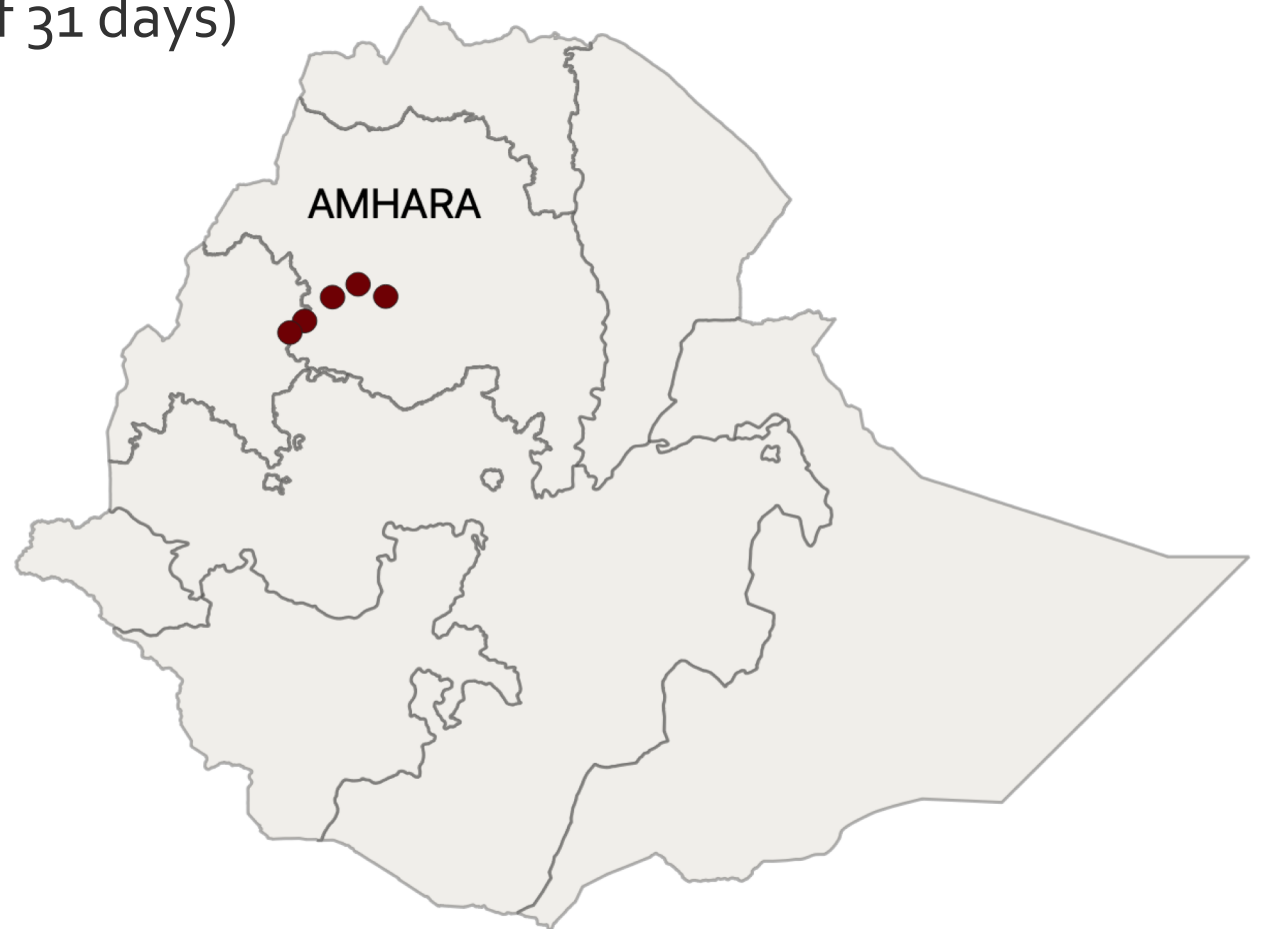
- **Surgical referrals:** a referral for surgical services made from one hospital to a higher level hospital

Purpose: Determine the most common reasons for surgical referral.



Methods

- Descriptive cross-sectional study
- Location: 5 primary-level hospitals in Amhara, Ethiopia
- Included all reasons for emergency & elective referrals in May 2018 (total of 31 days)



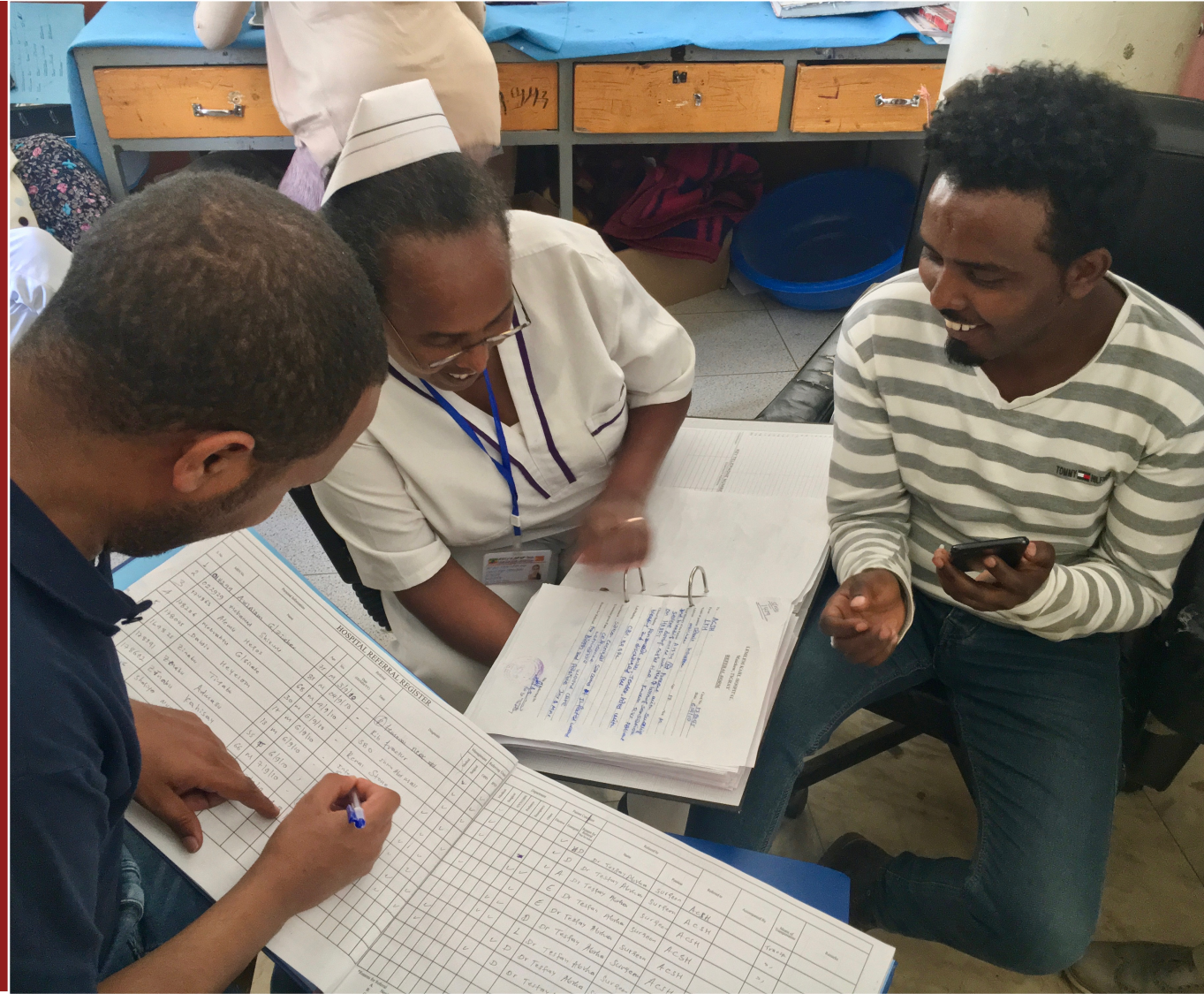
Findings

Reason for Referral	Number of Referrals					Total
	Hospital 1	Hospital 2	Hospital 3	Hospital 4	Hospital 5	
<i>Need for specialist care</i>	68 (97.1%)	61 (93.9%)	59 (84%)	90 (95%)	16 (59%)	294 (89.9%)
<i>Lack of diagnostic equipment</i>	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.5%)	0	0	8 (29.6%)	10 (3.1%)
<i>Lack of drugs</i>	0	0	1 (1.4%)	5 (5.3%)	0	6 (1.8%)
<i>Patient preference</i>	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (2.9%)	0	2 (7.4%)	6 (1.8%)
<i>Lack of medical supplies/consumables</i>	0	0	4 (5.7%)	0	0	4 (1.2%)
Total	70	65	70	95	27	327



Conclusion

- Reveals the substantial need for specialized surgical care and more resources in primary-level hospitals
- May help identify future areas of intervention for Safe Surgery 2020 & the Federal Ministry of Health



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Thank You!



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