

Global burden of pediatric surgical disease – PhD Propositions

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1. Global pediatric surgery concerns itself with the equitable allocation of surgical resources and access to care for world's children (this thesis)
2. The preferred metric for measuring the burden of disease is the disability-adjusted life year (DALY) (this thesis)
3. The burden of surgical disease consists of met need (burden already averted), unmet need (burden not yet averted), and unmeetable need (burden impossible to avert) (this thesis)
4. The global burden of surgical disease in children is not yet known (this thesis)
5. Disability weights unavailable in the literature are successfully derived using paired comparisons anchored by trade-off methods (this thesis)
6. Both the unmet need and the delayed met need are much higher in low-income compared to high-income countries, resulting in a higher impact of pediatric surgery in those settings (this thesis)
7. The most prevalent cause of disease in low-resource settings is poverty.
8. Neocolonialism is widely prevalent in global health: those with the resources set and implement the global agendas
9. "Nothing about us without us" - should be the motto of all international development efforts
10. "Do to others what you want them do to you" is the main motivation for volunteerism, charitable work and global involvement
11. "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - Nelson Mandela