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HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF SPACE AND SPACE TECHNOLOGIES FOR GLOBAL
SURGERY IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Abstract

Surgical systems in LMICs face challenges. LMICs lack infrastructure and capacity for surgical care, despite having a high surgical disease burden. Patients in LMICs face high expenses for surgical care, causing financial hardship.

Global surgery aims to provide safe, timely, and affordable surgical care in resource-limited settings and crisis-affected communities. High-income countries support initiatives to strengthen surgical systems in LMICs, but with constraints.

LMICs are integrating space technologies into their development. Space agencies/societies at national, sub-regional, and regional levels help address local problems. LMICs launch cost-effective nanosatellites to achieve goals that were previously unattainable due to high costs.

LMICs should prioritize global surgery in their space programs, like agriculture and wildlife protection. Involving LMIC-based global surgery experts in space policy and program development can enhance access to safe, timely, affordable, and quality surgical care. This approach strengthens surgical systems sustainably in LMICs.