

# CHAPTER: 17

## A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO COMPARE THE TARIFF RATES OF COMMON SURGICAL PROCEDURES ACROSS PRIVATE HOSPITALS OF DELHI NCR AND MUMBAI

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Surgery has become a vital aspect of global healthcare, with approximately 234 million operations conducted annually. According to the World Bank's 2002 report, surgically treatable conditions accounted for around 164 million disability-adjusted life years, representing 11% of the overall disease burden [1]. A substantial segment of the worldwide population has experienced different surgical interventions at some stage in their lifetimes. Surgery is widespread across all communities, irrespective of economic status, rural or urban locales, and encompasses a wide range of conditions, extending from affluent to resource-constrained settings. The demand for surgery has increased due to evolving disease patterns. Despite the growing number of surgical procedures in low-income and middle-income countries, the associated costs were not well understood.

Private healthcare has evolved beyond exclusively emphasizing disease treatment to offering a spectrum of services aligned with an individual's financial capability. This shift has been instrumental in the rise of expenses. Presently, healthcare is being promoted and presented as a branded product [2,3].

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To pinpoint discrepancies in costs for identical surgical procedures among private hospitals in Delhi NCR and Mumbai.
2. To determine the factors contributing to variations in costs for identical surgical procedures in Delhi NCR and Mumbai.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research utilized a descriptive cross-sectional design, spanning three months, and involved a sample size of 122 hospitals chosen through a convenience sampling method. It is crucial to acknowledge the study's limitations, particularly that the included hospitals were exclusively those affiliated with ABHI. Regarding the

study procedures, this investigation concentrated on five surgical procedures: Caesarean section, Laparoscopic Appendectomy, Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia, and Normal Delivery.

## **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

The research findings revealed that, for all five procedures and across all five hospital categories, the average tariff rates were higher in Mumbai hospitals than in those located in Delhi NCR. Additionally, the study highlighted significant price disparities for the same procedure within the identical category of hospitals in Delhi NCR. In contrast, in Mumbai, the variation in the price of a specific procedure across similar categories of hospitals was less prominent.

## **CONCLUSION**

The insights revealed the following factors: Mumbai's high cost of living, infrastructure, overheads, and manpower contribute to higher treatment charges in hospitals, as they aim to secure a return on investment. Regulatory hurdles in building hospitals in Mumbai result in fewer establishments, and the stringent regulations also contribute to fewer fraudulent activities, reducing the discrepancy in hospital rates compared to Delhi. Delhi has a higher number of private hospitals, leading to a higher density of hospitals and subsequently lower average rates for procedures.

## **REFERENCES**

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