A PILOT STUDY TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF "BRIGHAM 20 KITS" FOR CESAREAN DELIVERIES AT AN URBAN HOSPITAL IN RWANDA

J. Greenberg1,2, V. Mivumbi3
1. Harvard Medical School, USA
2. Brigham & Women’s Hospital, USA
3. National University of Rwanda Faculty of Medicine

OBJECTIVE
To determine if an instrument kit with 20 standardized instruments and a counting sheet could be used to consistently perform cesarean deliveries in a safe manner for the purpose of providing obstetricians with better surgical instruments and improved efficiency in limited resource environments.

METHODS
Specially designed, “Brigham 20 Kits” were introduced into Kibagabaga Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda along with a protocol for counting instruments and processing them. After 3 months, the counting sheets were reviewed and the kits were evaluated for correct number of instruments.

RESULTS
Prior to this study, there were no consistent cesarean delivery instrument kits and instrument counts were not performed. Between November 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012, 399 cesarean deliveries were performed using eight “Brigham 20 Kits.” 196 of 399 (49%) count sheets were completed. Of the 8 kits, 5 (62.5%) had all of the correct 20 instruments; the 3 remaining kits had 21, 21 and 22 instruments respectively.

CONCLUSIONS
In this small pilot study, with minimal staff education and oversight, limited instrument “Brigham 20 Kits” seemed adequate to safely perform cesarean deliveries and encourage instrument counting. Implementation of this system could help limited resource facilities simultaneous improve surgical instruments quality and achieve safer surgeries with minimal cost.