



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECONSTRUCTIVE AND AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY AT RSUP H. ADAM MALIK MEDAN: COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH REGULATIONS IN INDONESIA BASED ON LAW NO. 36 OF 2009

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received : 2024-08-26 Revised: 2024-08-29 Published: 2024-09-05 Keywords: Regulatory, Compliance Plastic Surgery, Patient Safety	Plastic surgery, including reconstructive and aesthetic procedures, is increasingly significant in healthcare systems worldwide. In Indonesia, plastic surgery practices are governed by several health regulations, including the Health Law No. 23 of 1992 and the Medical Practice Law No. 19 of 2004. However, challenges in regulatory compliance and enforcement continue to affect patient outcomes. This study investigates how these procedures are implemented at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan, particularly in light of existing health regulations. Using a qualitative approach, including interviews with healthcare professionals and patients, this research aims to identify gaps in legal compliance, patient safety, and ethical considerations in plastic surgery practices. The findings suggest a need for stronger regulatory oversight, better practitioner training, and improved patient education on informed consent and surgical risks.

I. INTRODUCTION

Plastic surgery, an integral part of medical science, encompasses both reconstructive and aesthetic procedures, aiming to restore or enhance physical appearance. Reconstructive surgery primarily targets functional impairments resulting from trauma, burns, birth disorders, or disease, striving to normalize function and appearance. Conversely, aesthetic surgery focuses on enhancing appearance, boosting self-esteem and confidence in patients.

In Indonesia, the practice of plastic surgery is meticulously regulated under various health laws to safeguard patient safety and ensure professional accountability. The Health Law No. 23 of 1992 sets broad healthcare standards, while the Medical Practice Law No. 19 of 2004 specifically delineates the duties and responsibilities of medical practitioners, including plastic surgeons. These laws are designed to uphold a high standard of medical care and to protect patients from malpractice and unethical behavior in the medical field.

Despite the robust legal framework, the actual implementation of plastic surgery in Indonesia faces significant hurdles. Many healthcare providers, including clinics and individual practitioners, often operate outside the prescribed legal parameters. This disregard for the law leads to increased surgical complications, patient dissatisfaction, and a surge in legal

disputes. One of the most critical issues is the frequent performance of aesthetic surgeries without proper patient consultation or informed consent. This lack of proper procedure not only compromises patient safety but also places a substantial ethical question mark over the entire practice.

Moreover, the rapid proliferation of clinics offering plastic surgery services, particularly in both urban and rural settings, exacerbates these challenges. Many of these facilities operate without the necessary licenses and are frequently staffed by practitioners lacking the requisite qualifications. This situation poses grave risks to patient safety and severely damages public trust in the healthcare system.

This study specifically examines the practices at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan, a public hospital renowned for its comprehensive plastic surgery services encompassing both reconstructive and aesthetic disciplines. The research aims to critically evaluate the hospital's adherence to national health regulations. It seeks to uncover discrepancies in legal compliance, patient safety measures, and the overall quality of services provided.

The primary methodology of this research involves a qualitative analysis through structured interviews with various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals and patients who have undergone surgery at the hospital. This approach

allows for an in-depth understanding of the practical challenges and ethical considerations in the hospital's plastic surgery department.

Initial findings indicate a mixed scenario. While RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan generally maintains a high standard of surgical care, there are areas where improvements are necessary. Particularly concerning are issues related to the informed consent process, where it appears that not all patients receive comprehensive information about the procedures, potential risks, and post-surgery care. Such gaps in communication can lead to unrealistic expectations and dissatisfaction with surgical outcomes.

Moreover, the study explores the extent of regulatory compliance among the medical staff and the administrative oversight within the hospital. Preliminary data suggests that while most surgeons at the hospital are well-qualified, there is a variability in adherence to the strict guidelines laid down by health laws. This inconsistency can lead to variations in surgical outcomes and patient experiences, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of existing regulations.

The research further delves into the impact of such practices on patient safety. By analyzing case studies and incident reports, the study identifies common trends and specific instances where lack of adherence to safety protocols has led to complications or adverse outcomes. These insights are critical for understanding how to enhance patient safety and trust in plastic surgery services.

In conclusion, the research aims to provide actionable recommendations based on the identified gaps in practice and compliance at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan. By advocating for rigorous enforcement of health laws, enhanced training for medical staff, and better patient education on surgical risks and outcomes, the study seeks to ensure that plastic surgery in Indonesia aligns with the highest standards of care and ethical practice. These recommendations aim not only to improve patient outcomes but also to restore and bolster public confidence in the healthcare system's ability to provide safe and effective plastic surgery services.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research adopted a qualitative approach to explore the implementation of plastic surgery practices in Indonesia, focusing specifically on

RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan. A sociological legal research framework was employed to understand how plastic surgery procedures align with the relevant health laws, such as the Health Law No. 23 of 1992 and the Medical Practice Law No. 19 of 2004 (Ministry of Health, 1992; Ministry of Health, 2004).

Data were collected through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with healthcare professionals, including plastic surgeons and nursing staff at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan. In addition, interviews were conducted with patients who had undergone plastic surgery at the hospital to gather their perspectives on informed consent, patient safety, and post-operative care. A total of 15 interviews were conducted—five with healthcare professionals and ten with patients. Secondary data were collected by reviewing the hospital's policy documents, procedural guidelines, and patient medical records to assess compliance with national health regulations.

The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying key themes related to informed consent, practitioner qualifications, and patient safety. Data from hospital records and policy documents were compared against the relevant health laws to assess compliance. The analysis focused on identifying gaps between the hospital's practices and the legal requirements.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Discussion

Plastic surgery in Indonesia is governed by several key pieces of legislation designed to ensure patient safety, professional competence, and the ethical conduct of medical practitioners. However, the practical implementation of these laws varies considerably across different healthcare settings. At RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan, the study identified several areas where improvements are needed to ensure full compliance with the law.

B. Informed Consent and Patient Rights

Informed consent stands as a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, especially in fields like plastic surgery where the stakes are high—both in terms of physical results and psychological impacts. This fundamental principle ensures that patients are fully aware of what to expect from their procedures, allowing them to make informed decisions

about their own healthcare. Yet, findings from RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan indicate a concerning gap in the practice of obtaining informed consent, posing significant ethical and legal challenges.

The study at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan revealed a troubling trend: many patients were not adequately briefed on the complexities of their plastic surgery options. Informed consent involves more than just agreeing to a procedure; it requires a thorough understanding of the risks, benefits, and potential complications. Unfortunately, the investigations showed that the consultations often skewed towards highlighting the benefits, with scant attention paid to the possible adverse outcomes. This imbalance not only compromises patient autonomy but also increases the liability risks for both practitioners and the hospital.

Indonesian health regulations are explicit about patient rights to comprehensive information. Before undergoing any medical procedure, patients should receive detailed explanations about the surgery, what results to expect, potential side effects, and the availability of alternative treatments. This knowledge is crucial for patients to weigh their options and make decisions that align with their personal health goals and risk tolerance.

The current practice of truncated consultations observed at the hospital contradicts these legal stipulations and the ethical framework of medical practice. This inadequacy can lead to a host of issues, from post-operative dissatisfaction and psychological distress to severe health complications—all of which could be mitigated or avoided with a proper informed consent process.

The implications of inadequate informed consent extend beyond individual patient outcomes. They can erode trust in the healthcare system, deter potential patients from seeking necessary medical interventions, and lead to an increase in legal disputes and malpractice claims. These broader repercussions underscore the need for RSUP H.

Adam Malik Medan, and indeed all medical institutions, to revisit and reinforce their informed consent protocols.

This study suggests several actionable steps to improve the informed consent process. Firstly, enhancing the training of medical staff on the ethical and legal importance of informed consent can ensure more consistent practices. Secondly, implementing standardized checklists that cover all necessary information could help ensure that no critical details are omitted during consultations. Thirdly, the use of visual aids and written materials in multiple languages can accommodate patient diversity, ensuring that all patients, regardless of their educational background or native language, understand the full scope of the procedure they are considering.

C. Practitioner Qualifications and Training

The qualifications and training of plastic surgeons are critical factors in ensuring successful outcomes and minimizing complications. In Indonesia, plastic surgery should only be performed by certified plastic surgeons who have undergone specialized training in this field. However, the study revealed that some practitioners performing plastic surgeries at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan did not have the required qualifications. This issue is compounded by the fact that many unlicensed clinics across the country offer plastic surgery services without adequate oversight or accountability.

There is a pressing need for stricter enforcement of certification requirements for plastic surgeons. Hospitals and clinics must ensure that only qualified professionals perform these procedures, and there should be regular audits and inspections to verify compliance with professional standards. Furthermore, continuous education programs should be mandatory for plastic surgeons to keep them updated on the latest techniques and safety protocols.

D. Patient Safety and Medical Protocols

Patient safety is the cornerstone of all medical practices, including plastic surgery, where the complexities of the procedures demand stringent adherence to safety protocols. However, the research conducted at

RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan revealed significant lapses in the enforcement and consistency of these critical safety measures, raising concerns about the overall care environment.

One of the most alarming findings of the study was the inconsistent application of sterilization procedures. Proper sterilization of surgical equipment is fundamental to preventing infections and ensuring patient safety during and after procedures. The lapses in this basic protocol not only compromise patient health but also undermine the credibility of the healthcare facility. Additionally, the study highlighted issues with the handling of medical records and the post-operative monitoring of patients, both of which are integral to maintaining high standards of patient care.

Accurate and comprehensive medical records are the backbone of effective medical practice. They serve multiple critical functions, including tracking the progress of patients, guiding post-operative care, and providing a legal document of the care provided. Unfortunately, the investigation at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan found numerous instances of poorly maintained or inaccurate medical records. This not only hampers the ability of medical professionals to assess the effectiveness of surgeries and manage complications but also impedes any legal investigations that might arise from malpractice claims.

The lack of detailed record-keeping is particularly detrimental in the context of plastic surgery, where the outcomes can significantly affect a patient's quality of life and where complications may not become apparent until much later. Without accurate records, it is nearly impossible to trace the root causes of any issues that arise or to hold the appropriate parties accountable.

Another critical area of concern identified in the study was the inadequate post-operative care and monitoring. Post-surgical care is crucial for detecting and managing complications early, ensuring optimal

recovery, and providing patients with the support they need during the healing process. The failure to adhere to established post-surgical monitoring guidelines can lead to overlooked complications, delayed response to patient distress, and ultimately, poorer health outcomes.

To address these serious concerns, several recommendations have been proposed to enhance patient safety at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan:

1. **Strengthening Protocols and Training:** Implementing comprehensive training programs for all surgical and nursing staff to reinforce the importance of strict adherence to sterilization protocols and post-operative care guidelines.
2. **Enhancing Record-Keeping:** Upgrading the medical records system to ensure that all patient information is accurately recorded and easily accessible. This could involve the adoption of electronic health records systems, which offer better tracking, fewer errors, and easier access to patient histories.
3. **Regular Audits and Assessments:** Conducting regular audits of medical practices and safety protocols to ensure compliance with national health regulations and international best practices. These audits should also include feedback sessions with staff to continually improve practices based on the latest medical guidelines and research.
4. **Patient Education and Engagement:** Developing comprehensive patient education programs that inform patients of their rights, the risks and benefits of procedures, and the expected post-operative care processes. This can empower patients to actively participate in their own healthcare and alert staff to potential issues early.

Improving patient safety in plastic surgery at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan requires a multifaceted approach that includes better training, stricter adherence to protocols, improved record-keeping, and active patient

involvement. By implementing these recommendations, the hospital can significantly enhance the quality of care provided, reduce the incidence of complications, and rebuild trust with the patient community.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Plastic surgery practices at RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan, as well as in Indonesia more broadly, face significant challenges in terms of regulatory compliance, patient safety, and professional training. The study has identified several key areas where improvements are needed to align these practices with national health regulations. First and foremost, informed consent procedures must be strengthened to ensure that patients fully understand the risks and benefits of their surgeries. Secondly, stricter enforcement of certification requirements for plastic surgeons is necessary to ensure that only qualified professionals perform these procedures. Finally, patient safety protocols must be consistently followed, and medical records must be accurately maintained to ensure transparency and accountability. By addressing these issues, RSUP H. Adam Malik Medan can set a benchmark for plastic surgery practices in Indonesia, ensuring that these procedures are carried out safely, ethically, and in full compliance with the law.

Recommendations

1. Enhance Regulatory Oversight: The Indonesian Ministry of Health should strengthen its oversight mechanisms to ensure that all clinics and hospitals offering plastic surgery services comply with health regulations. Regular audits and inspections should be conducted to verify compliance, particularly in terms of practitioner qualifications and patient safety protocols.
2. Mandatory Certification and Training: Hospitals and clinics should be required to verify the certification of plastic surgeons before allowing them to perform surgeries. Additionally, continuous education programs should be introduced to ensure that surgeons stay updated on the latest surgical techniques and safety procedures.
3. Improve Informed Consent Procedures: Clinics and hospitals must implement more comprehensive informed consent procedures. Patients should be given ample time to understand the risks and benefits of their surgeries, and consent should be documented thoroughly. In addition, efforts should be made to ensure that patients receive information in a format that is easy to understand, including the use of visual aids or videos where necessary.
4. Enhance Patient Safety Protocols: Hospitals should review and update their safety protocols to ensure that all equipment is properly sterilized, patient monitoring is conducted post-surgery, and accurate medical records are maintained. These measures are critical to preventing complications and ensuring the long-term success of plastic surgery procedures.
5. Public Education Campaigns: The Ministry of Health should consider launching public education campaigns to raise awareness about the risks and benefits of plastic surgery. These campaigns should focus on helping patients make informed decisions and encouraging them to seek treatment from licensed, qualified professionals.

By implementing these recommendations, Indonesia can improve the safety and quality of plastic surgery services, ensuring better patient outcomes and higher levels of trust in the healthcare system.

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