



Opening an Ear Hospital
and Community Ear Care project
in Nepal

The first four years, 2015-2019

Mike Smith

Nepal





Our background in treating ear problems in
Nepal

Delivered surgery and other ear treatments in remote district hospitals for more than 25 years

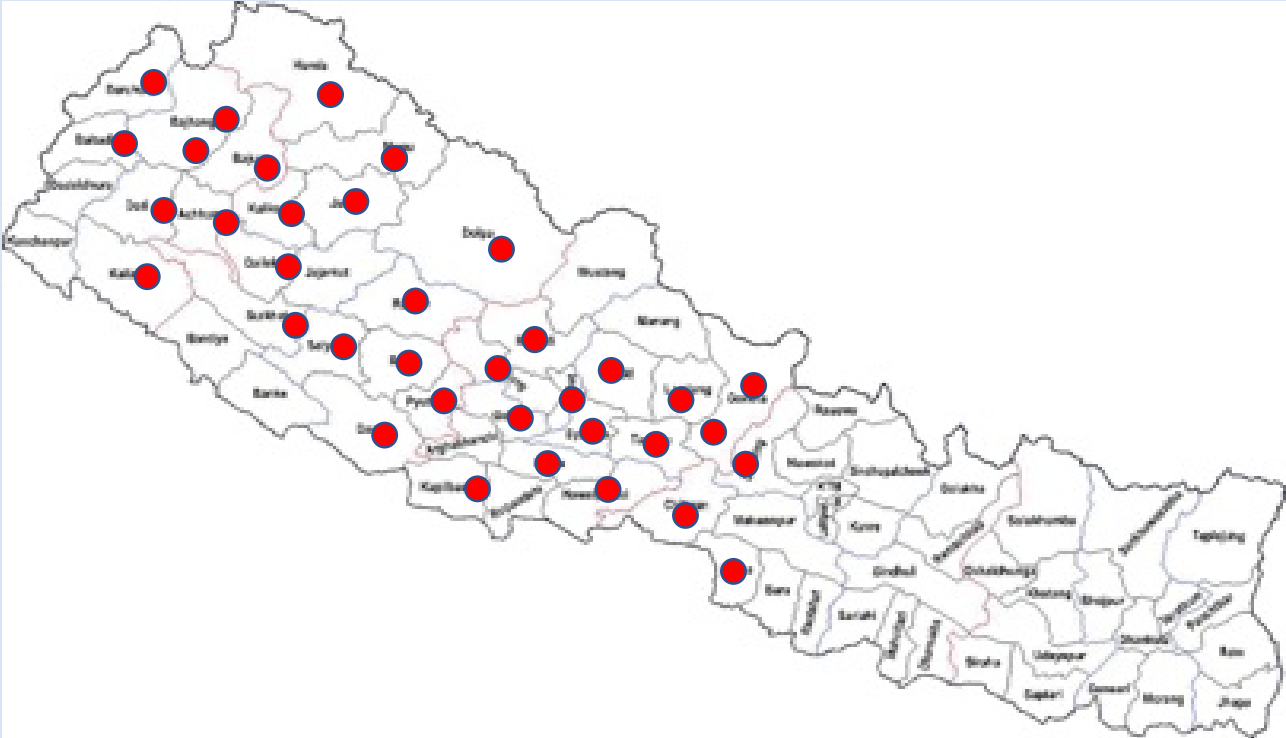


Every kind of ear problem



Young (but ageing) population.
CSOM very common

52 Ear camps to 32 districts in less developed Western Nepal, 1993-2018



40,000 out patients seen
5,000 operations done



Typical ear camp:
1000 Outpatients,
100-150 Operations,
300 H. aids

BUT - things are changing:

- Must be sensitive to local professionals and regulations
- Parachute camps by foreigners, will they remain appropriate?
- Visa and medical registration issues are making expatriate camps difficult in Nepal
- Lancet commission and WHO recommend camps only as part of a structured programme



Increasing awareness of ear disease and deafness internationally.

Minister of health attends meeting

The image features a light blue background with a central horizontal banner in a light beige color. Above and below the banner are three overlapping semi-circles in various shades of blue, creating a decorative, wave-like pattern. The text "Taking a new direction" is centered within the banner in a dark grey, sans-serif font.

Taking a new direction

Ear Centre Planning

Vision

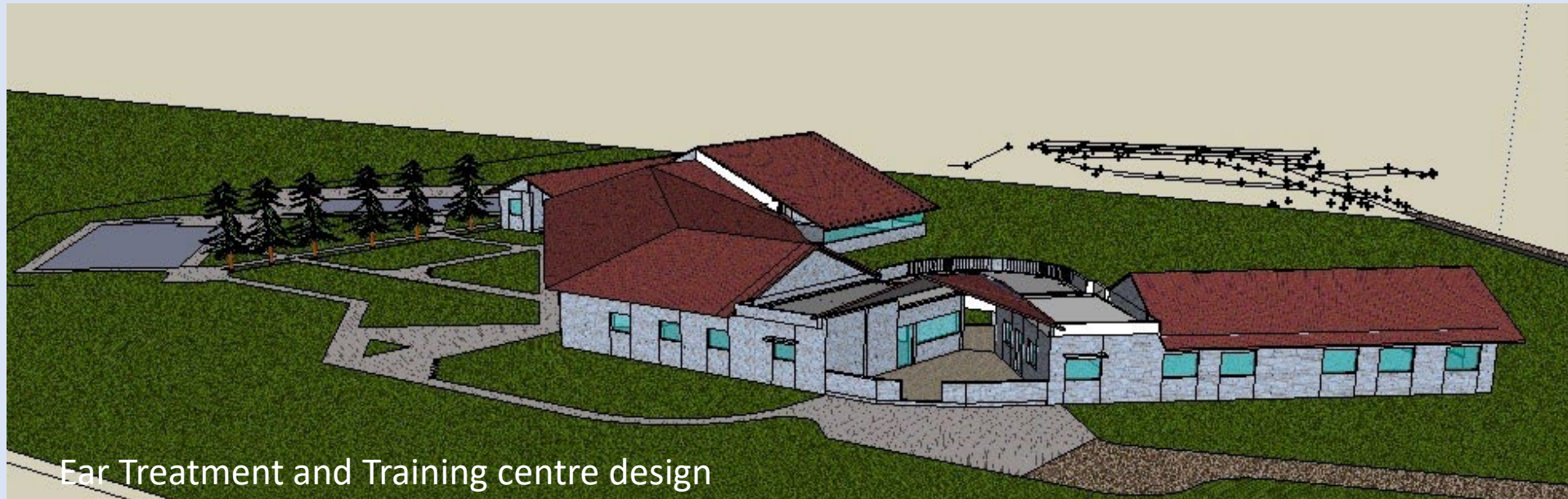
Sustainable

High quality care and teaching

Reach poor and marginalized

Develop satellite community ear care

Network with national and international professionals



Ear Treatment and Training centre design





GPH
GREEN PASTURES HOSPITAL
EAR CENTER
POKHARA, NEPAL



NEW FIRST CLASS FACILITY OPEN NOW

**CLINIC DAILY 9.00 am – 4 pm
SUNDAY - FRIDAY**

TREATMENT AND TESTING FOR ALL TYPES OF EAR PROBLEMS

कान सन्तुल्य सभै सन्तुल्यस्यारको परिक्षण र उपचार

MEDICINE, MICRO-SURGERY, HEARING TESTS, HEARING AIDS, COUNSELLING, SPEECH THERAPY

उच्च स्तरको सुविधाहरु कम मुल्यमा

If you have ear pain, ear discharge, hearing problems, noise in your ears, dizziness, itching in ears, ear blockage, swelling or lump near ear, deafness, if your child or older relative is affected, bring them for a check up. Any kind of ear problem, check it out.

यदि तपाईंको कानहरु दुःखको, पाकेको, कम सुन्ने वा नसुन्ने, आवाज आउने, धिल्लाउने, कान डगम हुने तथा कानको मजिक सुनिने अथवा गिर्सी पनायको छ भने तुरुन्त कान अस्पतालमा आई जाँच गराउन साथै तपाईंको बच्चा, छिनेकी तथा आफन्त हरुमा पनि उक्त प्रकारको समस्याहरु देखिधना जाँचको लागि अस्पतालमा सम्पर्क गर्नु होला ।

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2019



Teaching and training





Health education activities:
e.g. WHO International Hearing days, 2018 and 2019. Street rallies, local pop star, hearing screening, ear video examinations, nursing college events, school for deaf involved, speeches with sign language interpreter.

Community outreach - Aims

Visit primary health centres and schools regularly.

Train primary health staff

Encourage appropriate referrals

Maintain hearing aids in the field

Facilitate poor and remote people to reach the Ear Centre and obtain specialist treatment



Finances

Establishing the service

- Building: Switzerland
- Land: INF Nepal
- Equipment: UK
- Initial running costs: Germany
- Currently after 4 years, 'core services' sustainable by fair patient charging

Donors or local government will still be required for:

- Funds for clients unable to cover costs (currently supported by **earaidnepal** charity)
- Community work, training, and health education



Personnel - around 40 staff

- Postgraduate ENT doctors
- Medical officers
- Anaesthetists, anaesthetic assistant (LA and GA ear surgery)
- Audiologists, Ear mould technician, trained assistants
- 'Ear Care practitioners' for out-patient support, and community work
- Nurses
- Speech therapist
- Manager, reception, business officer, training coordinator, community coordinator
- Ancillary workers
- Expatriates, long term on staff variable 1-3
- Many short term visitors and volunteers

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping semi-circles in shades of blue, arranged horizontally. A central white horizontal band cuts through the middle of the semi-circles. The text "Out Patients" is centered within this white band.

Out Patients



Ear syringing



Out patients



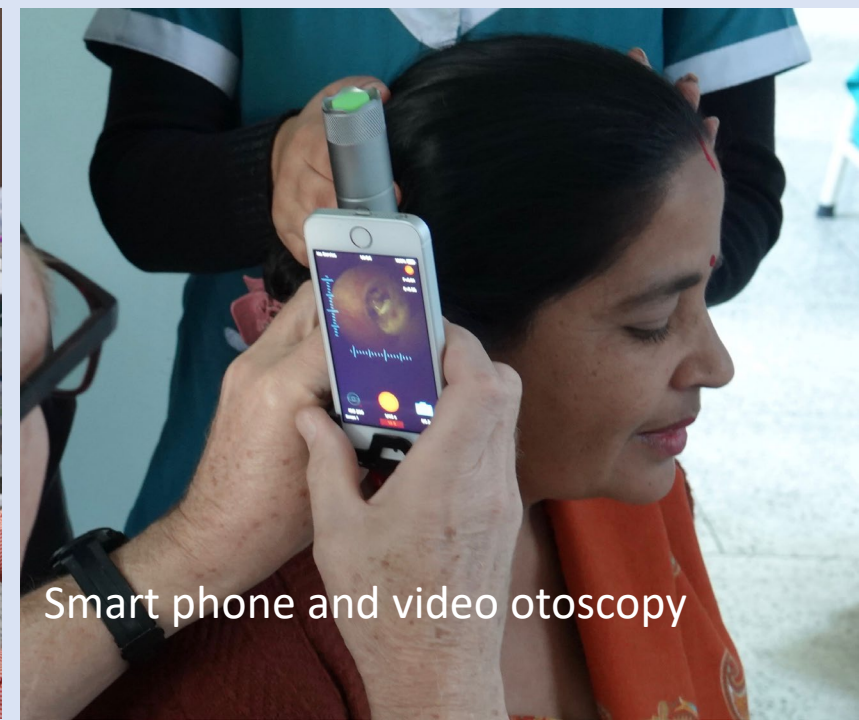
Speech therapy



ABR with sedation

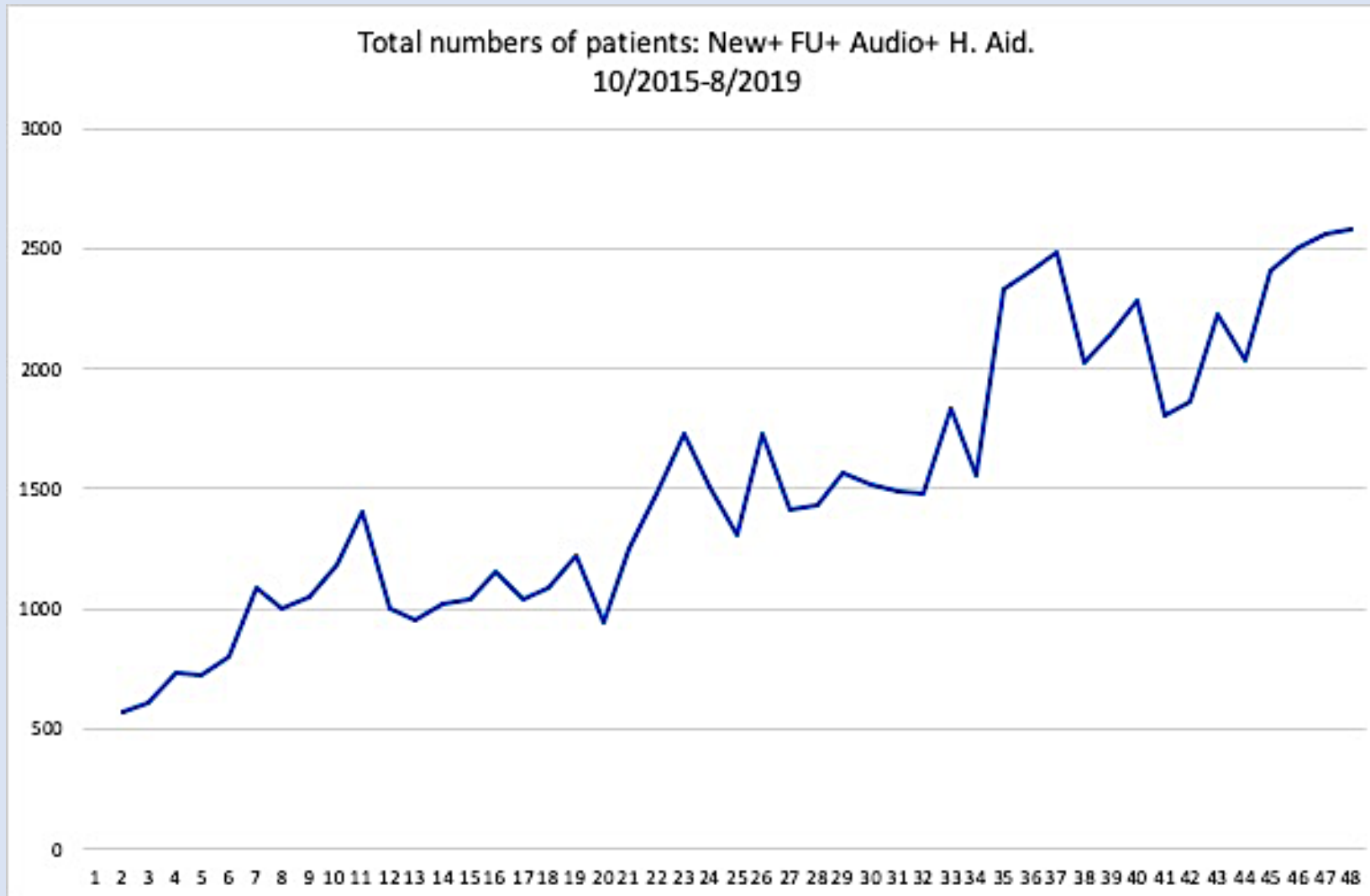


Microsuction

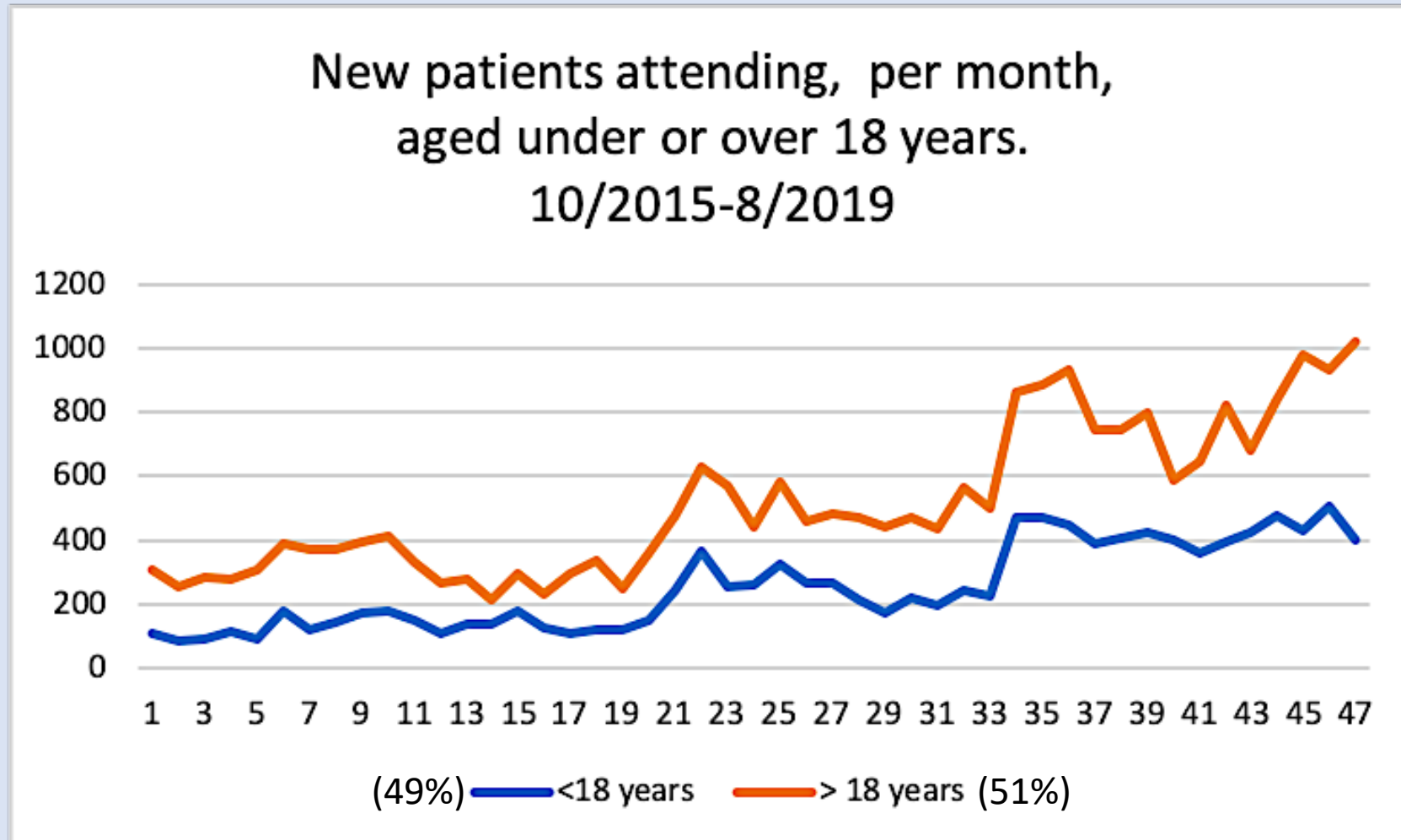


Smart phone and video otoscopy

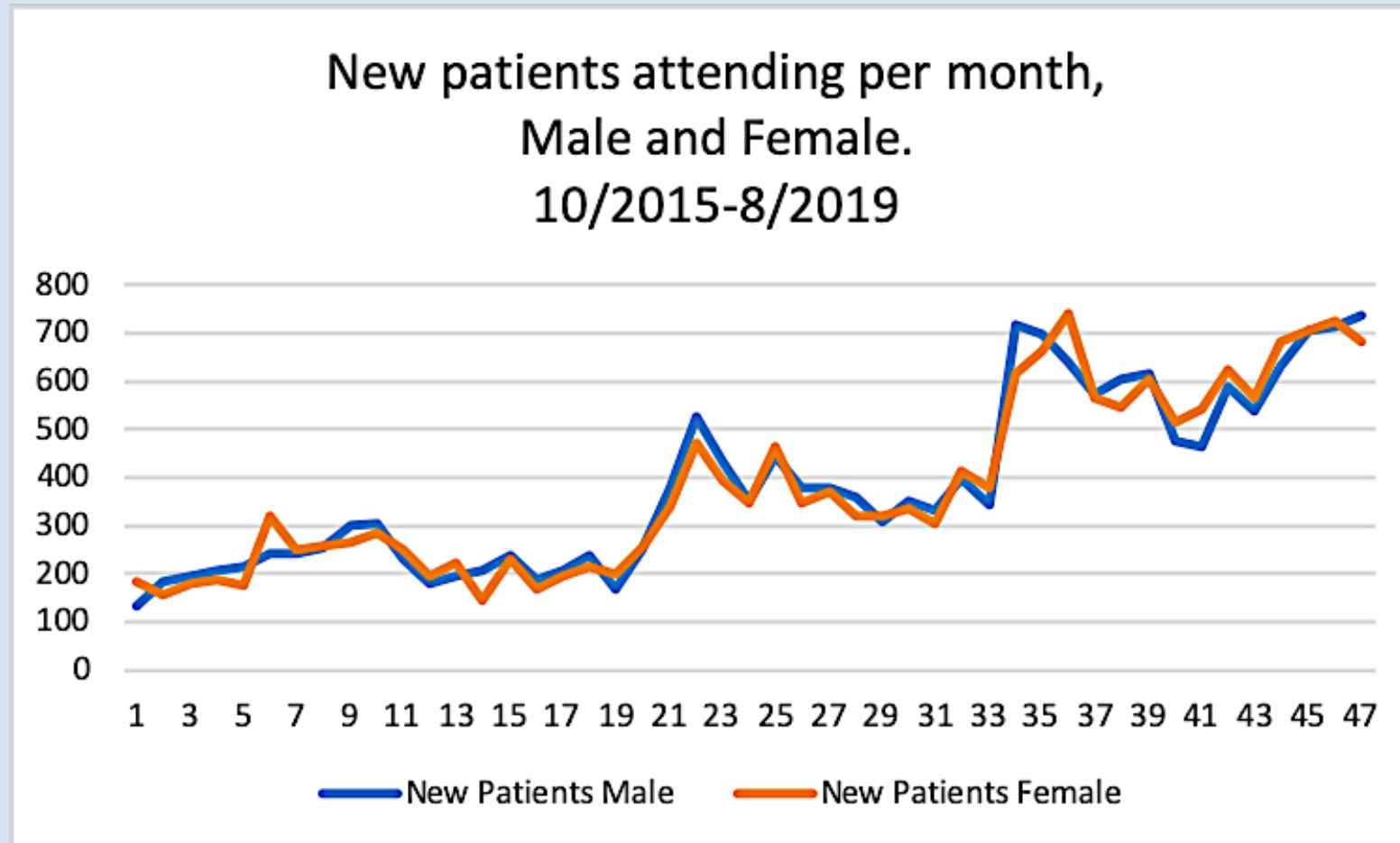
Total out patients, per month



New patients, under or over 18 years of age



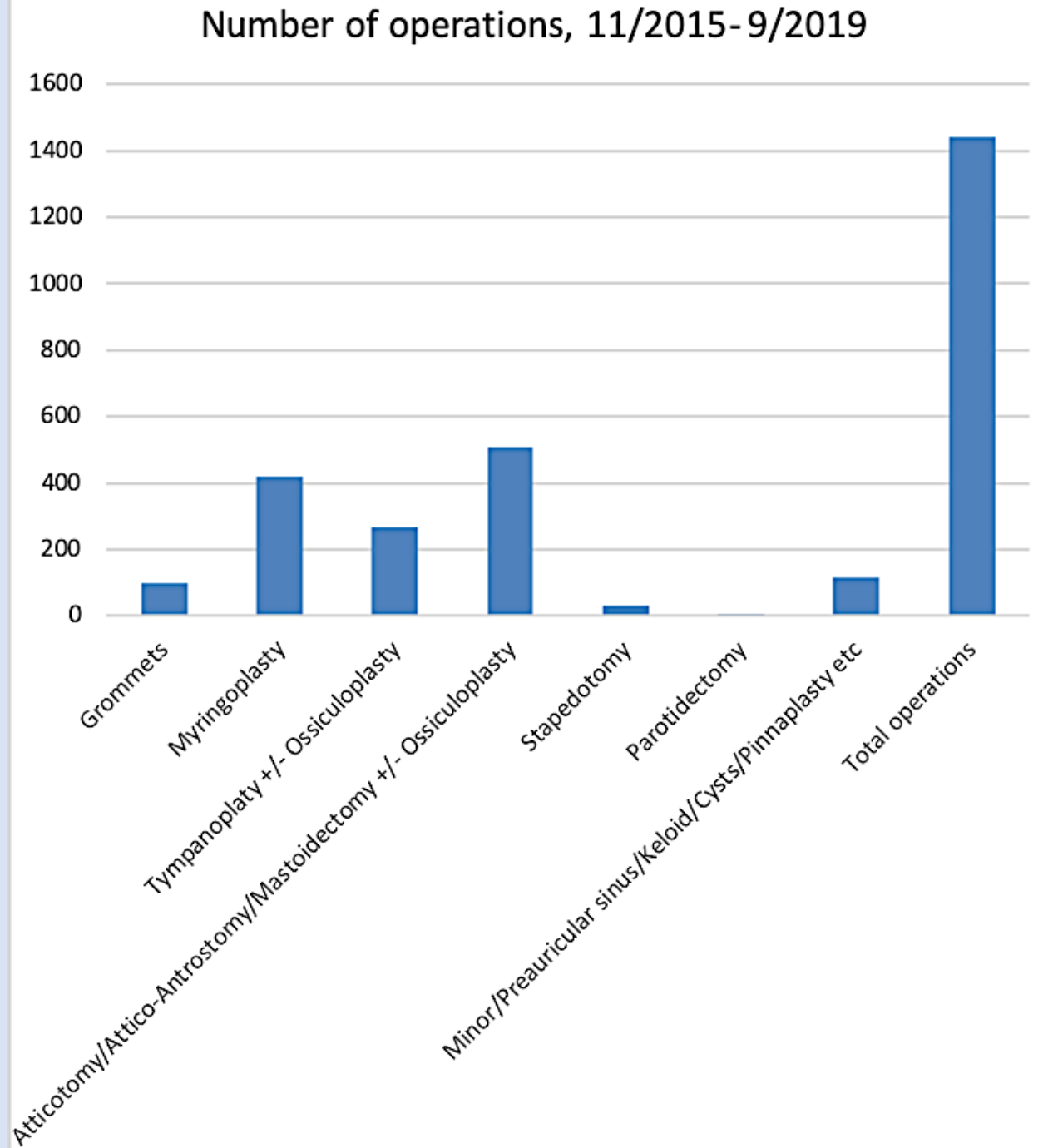
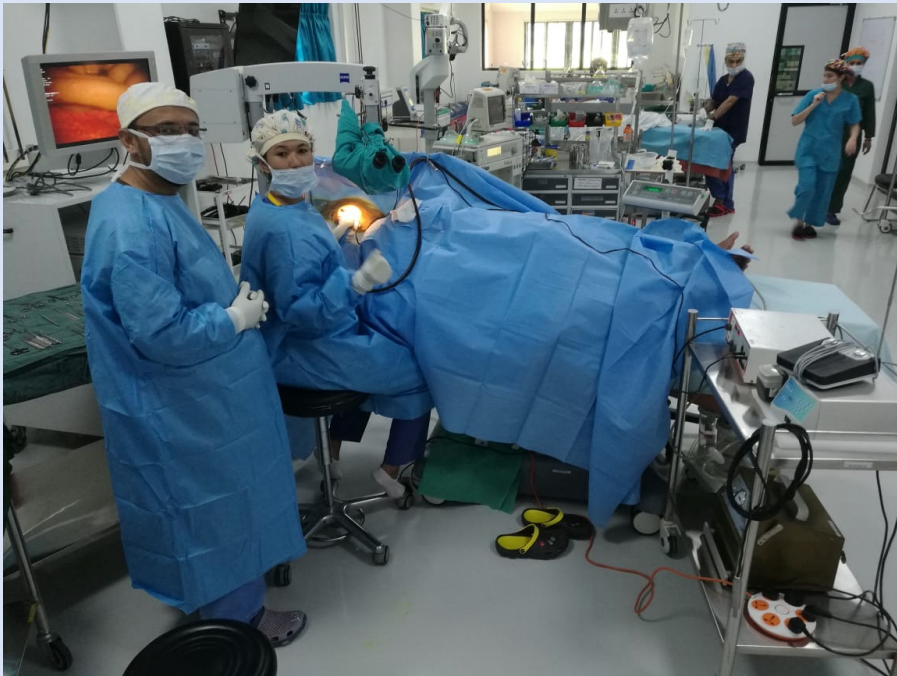
New patients, by sex



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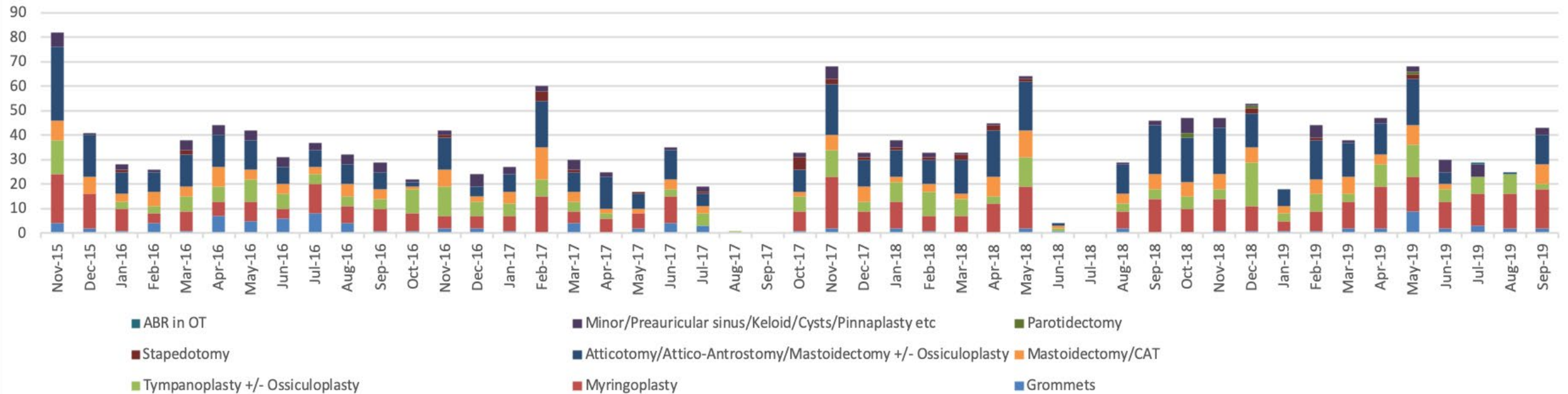
Surgery

Types of Operations

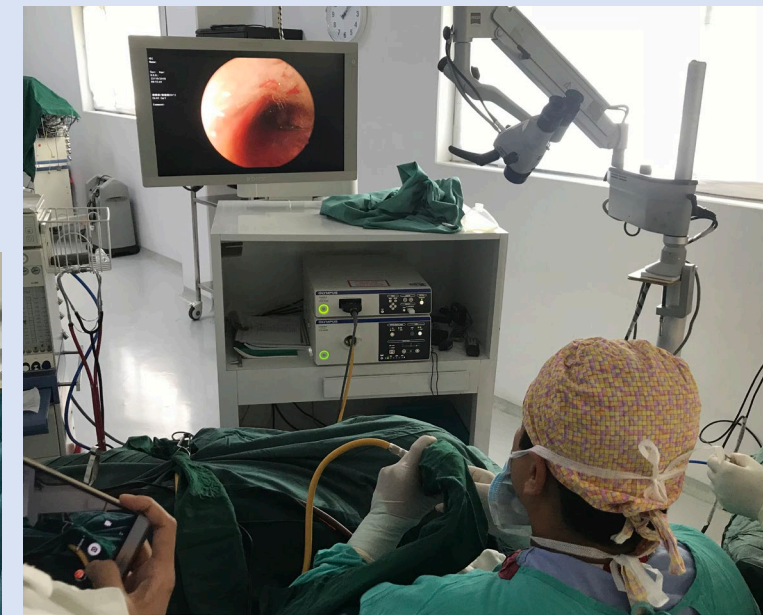


Operations, types per month

Operations, monthly totals, 2015-2019



New technology

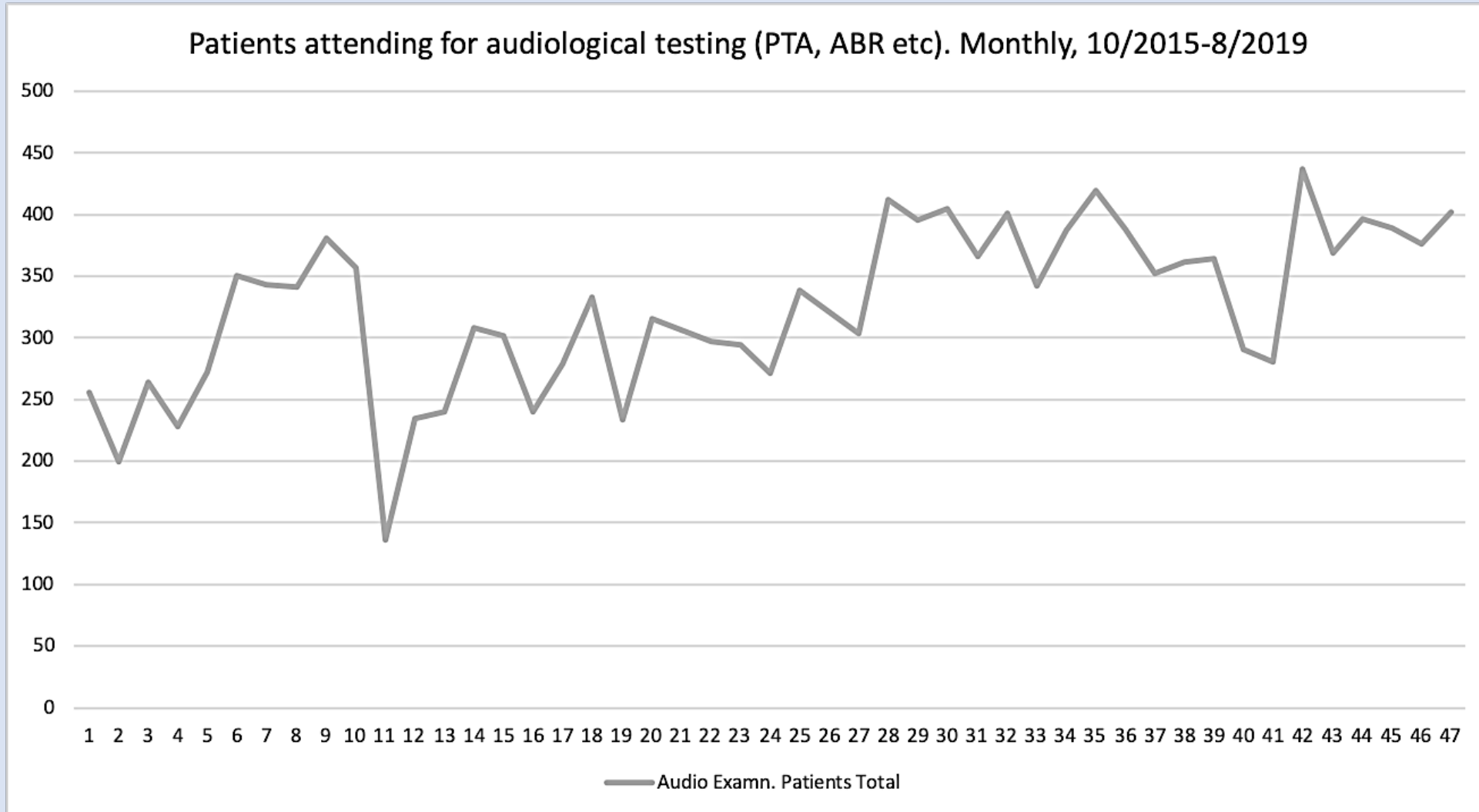


Facial nerve monitor
Video links
3D microscope camera
Endoscopic ear surgery
KTP laser

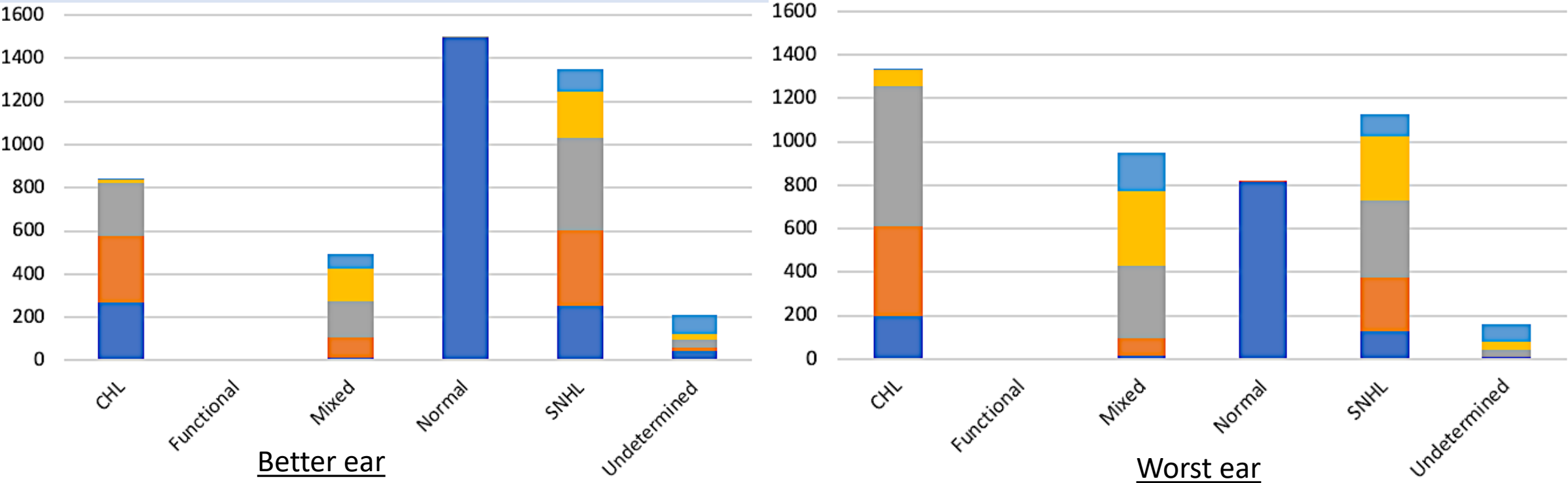
The image features a decorative header and footer consisting of three overlapping semi-circles in shades of blue. A horizontal white band runs through the center of the composition, containing the text "Audiology statistics".

Audiology statistics

Audio patients



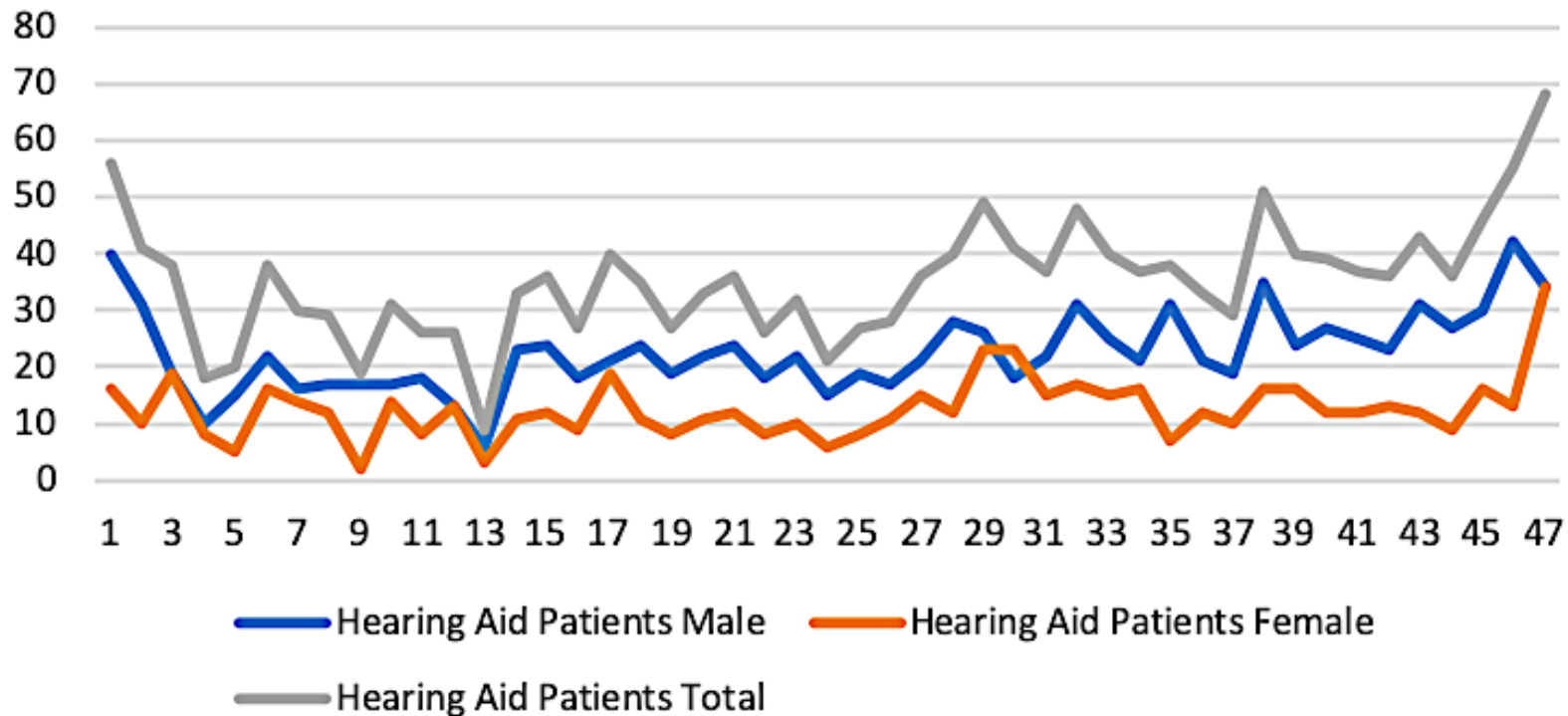
Type of hearing loss, of patients having audiograms, over a 1 year period, 2018-19



- 4 >81dB, Profound
- 3 81-80dB, Severe
- 2 41-60dB, Moderate (31-60dB for children)
- 1 26-40dB, Slight/mild
- 0 <25dB, Normal/no impairment

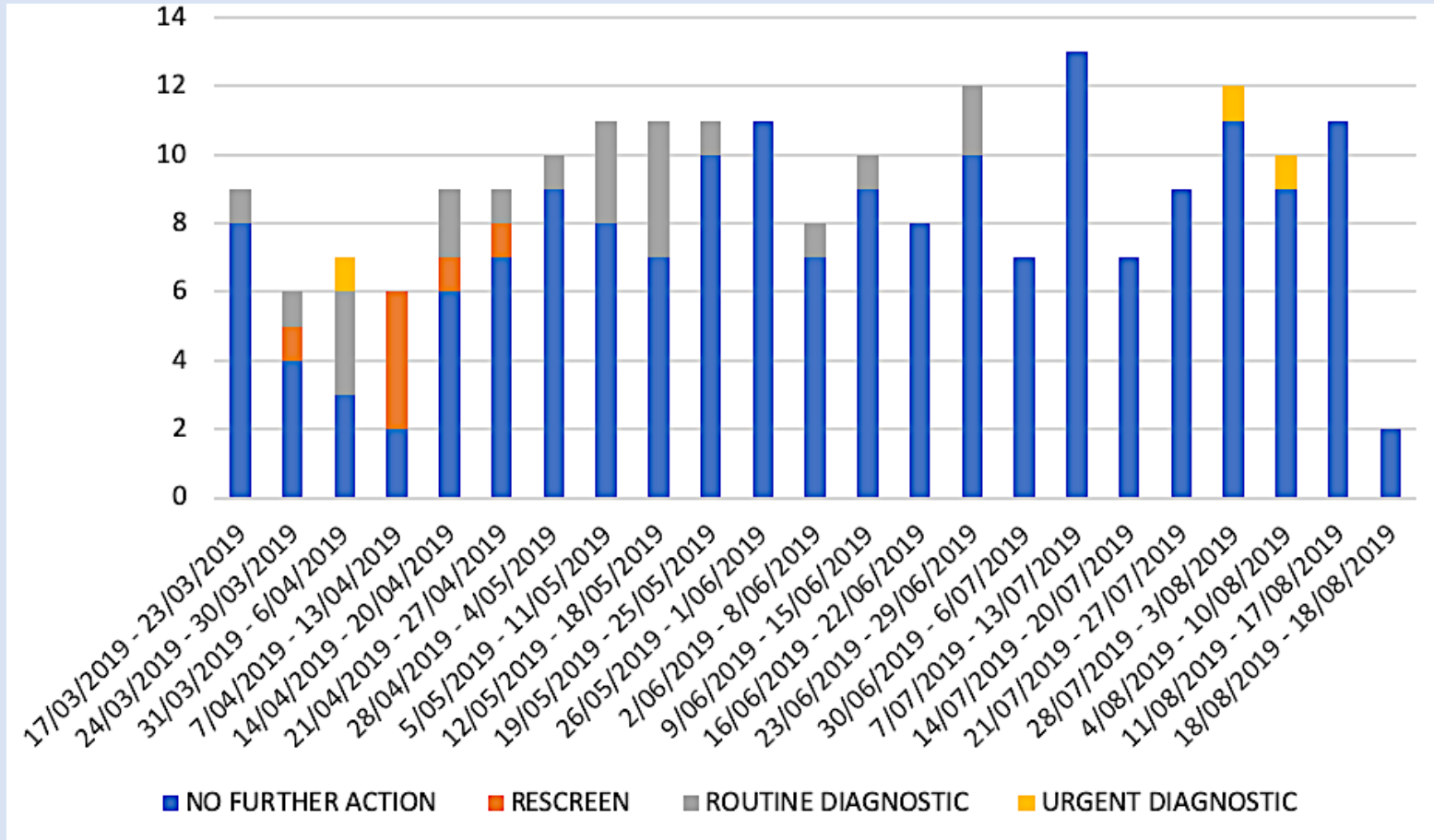
Hearing aids fitted

Hearing Aids fitted,per month.
10/2015-8/2019



Mainly donated aids

Neonatal screening (at risk babies) in regional hospital, per week, by outcome



Blue: bilateral pass

Orange: rescreen required (child did not cooperate or technical issue)

Grey: referral to Ear Centre for diagnostic testing (one or both ears)

Yellow: urgent referral to Ear Centre, due to a risk factor that needs urgent attention

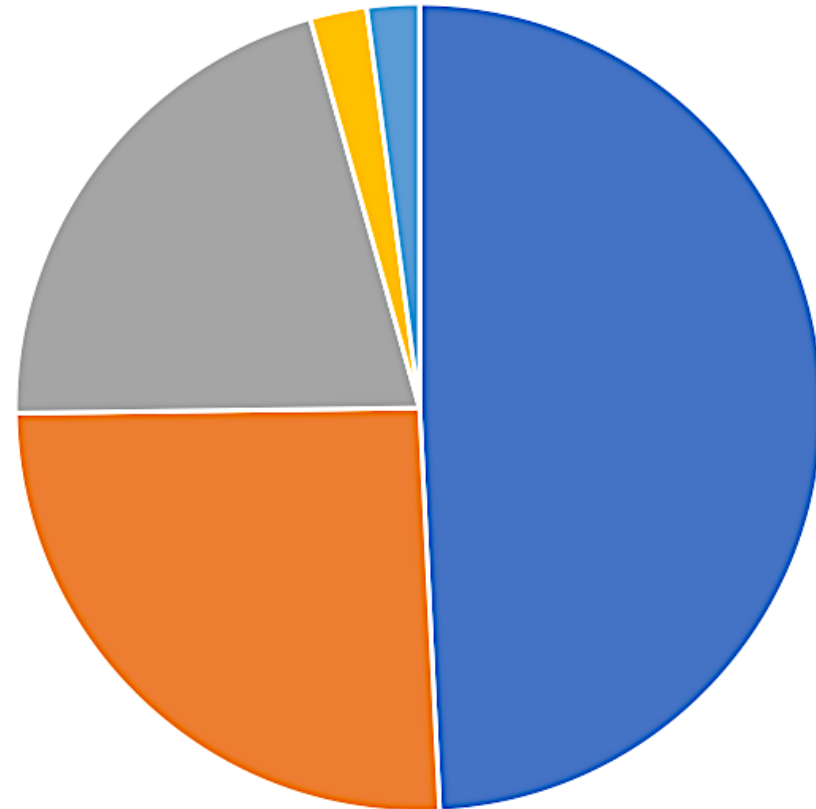


The image features a decorative background consisting of three overlapping semi-circles in various shades of blue, arranged in a horizontal row. A central white horizontal band cuts through the middle of the semi-circles. The text "Summary and lessons learned" is centered within this white band.

Summary and lessons learned

Patients treated since opening in 2015

Patient treatment episodes at the Ear Centre, 10/2015 - 9/2019
(Total, 73,333, excluding speech therapy and vestibular rehab data)



■ opd new patients ■ opd fu patients ■ audio test pts ■ hearing aid patients ■ operations

Excludes community
outreach camps
(1500+ patients)

Staff recruitment and retention

- Staff will move, plan ahead
- Finding and retaining leaders or visionaries is tough
- Maintain good working atmosphere, social events, feedback meetings, fair employment
- Plan for handover to nationals from the start
- Remember core, appropriate targets and values

Service and outcome standards

- Do research and audit, develop accurate (electronic) records
- Follow up is difficult, need contact systems
- Maintain national and international professional networks
- Communication well with supporters
- Provide a good caring service, grapevine is better than advertising
- High standards of safety

Volunteers welcome!

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Check us out on:

<https://www.earaidnepal.org>

<https://www.inf.org/our-work/ear-centre/>

