

WOMEN'S CHAPTER



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Thanks for the idea from Dr Terrilyn CT PUN, a member of the Women's Chapter, the theme of this issue is "Surgery and Environmental Sustainability". Due to longevity and access to modern technology, the demand for surgery is increasing globally. On the other hand, surgery is a significant contributor to carbon emissions and some even named "surgery" the "worst offender" in terms of environmental sustainability. Thus we need to encourage sustainable surgical practice: surgeries that are both environmentally sound and cost-effective.

Measures such as early ambulatory diagnosis, early discharge and minimal hospital stay need to be encouraged. In fact, these measures have been performed by most surgeons in Hong Kong. Second thoughts on using disposable instruments and equipment may be needed. Consideration may also be given to the use of biomedical devices labelled with energy-efficiency ratings.

Traditional scrubbing may be replaced by alcohol-based agents to save water during hand hygiene procedures in surgery, because water is a critical resource in many parts of the world.

Last but not least, surgeons need to critically appraise if a particular surgery is appropriate at all for a particular patient. Let us join hand in hand with all other specialists, paramedical staff and hospital administrators in providing sustainable and high-quality surgery to our patients.