**Rheumatic heart disease** is the most common cause of acquired cardiovascular disease among young populations in low-income countries. Team Heart began performing cardiac surgical interventions in Rwanda in 2007. The growing population of post-operative patients and of patients screened for rheumatic heart disease require a method for collecting high-quality, epidemiologic data.

The registry is currently accessible through REDCap, including 10 survey forms: demographics, medical and surgical history, initial presentation, follow-up, internal follow-up, echocardiogram, electrocardiogram, INR, laboratory, and penicillin prophylaxis. Existing patient data is being entered for all surgical patients, and real time surgical data is being entered during surgical trips.

Disease registries have been shown to improve health outcomes, enhance disease surveillance, increase healthcare utilization, and strengthen health systems globally. With the growing population of post-operative patients, we sought to create a rheumatic heart disease registry for Rwanda.

**Purpose**

Disease registries have been shown to improve health outcomes, enhance disease surveillance, increase healthcare utilization, and strengthen health systems globally. With the growing population of post-operative patients, we sought to create a rheumatic heart disease registry for Rwanda.

**Methods**

1. Establish goals and action plan
2. Select data collection system
3. Determine data content and design data collection form
4. System trainings
5. Collect and Analyze Data
6. Review the registry system

**Background**

**State of the Registry**

**Discussion & Future Directions**

The objectives of the registry are to create a centralized system for comprehensive disease data, improve healthcare access and outcomes for RHD patients, and provide a source of aggregate data to better inform policy change and further research with the goal of eradication of endemic RHD in Rwanda. With the initial surgical registry now accessible, future directions include collaborating with the Rwanda Biomedical Center on projects including investigating pregnancy outcomes of post-operative patients in the context of their anticoagulation regimens.

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