



**TÉCNICO**  
LISBOA



# Operating room time allocation to surgical services: the case of a public hospital in Portugal



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 Introduction ImproveOR project

 Motivation Case Study

 Problem Description Objectives, Literature Review,  
Methodology, Model

 Preliminary results

 Conclusions

 Future work



- Propose changes to resource planning and scheduling on the operating rooms
- Improve operating rooms efficiency
  - Increase surgeries production (to increase hospital financing from the state)
  - Health improvements to the patient
  - Maximize surgeons satisfaction
  - Comply with the goals established by Sistema Integrado de Gestão de Inscritos para Cirurgia (SIGIC)

THIS TALK: year 0





Continuously increasing complexity of health care organizations

Aging population  
Increasing demand  
New and expensive technologies

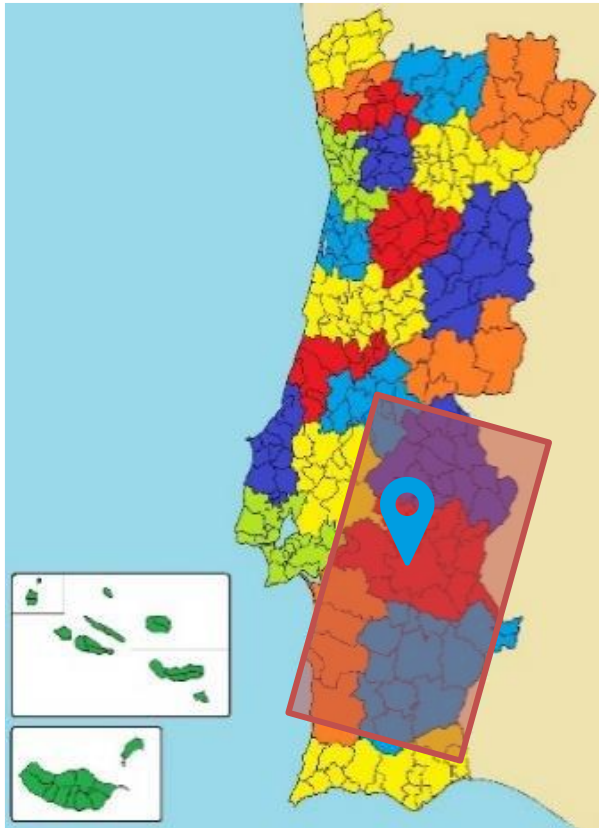


Operating rooms are the main center of costs and revenues at an hospital

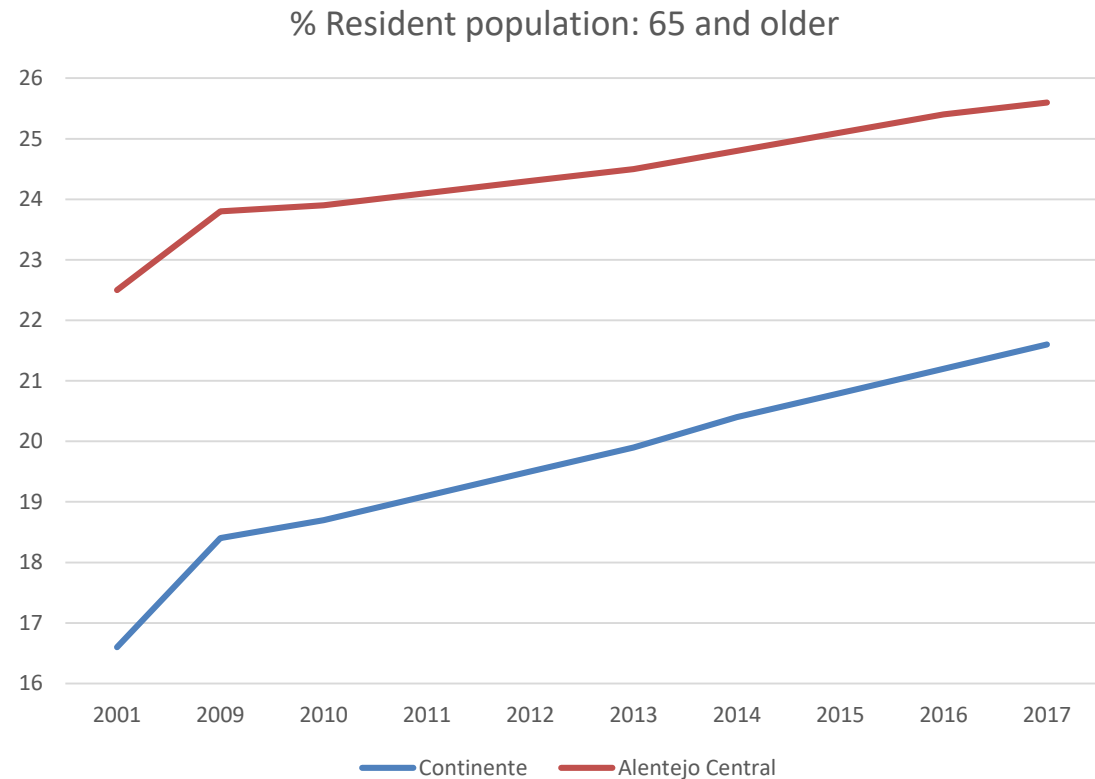


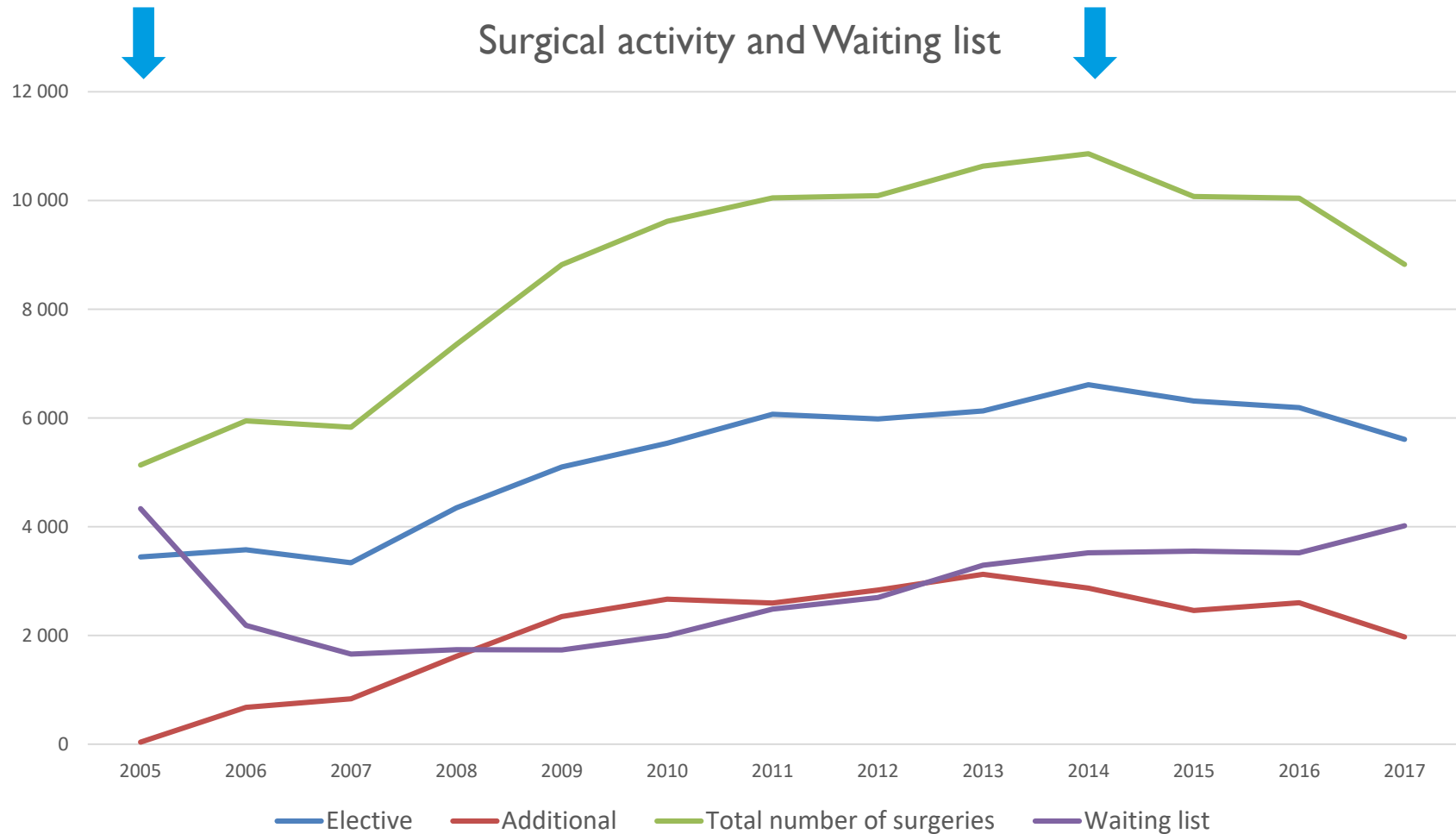
Coordination of scarce resources

Lack of surgeons  
Lack of anesthesiologists  
Lack of beds



Influence area of  
the hospital  
(325.237 people)

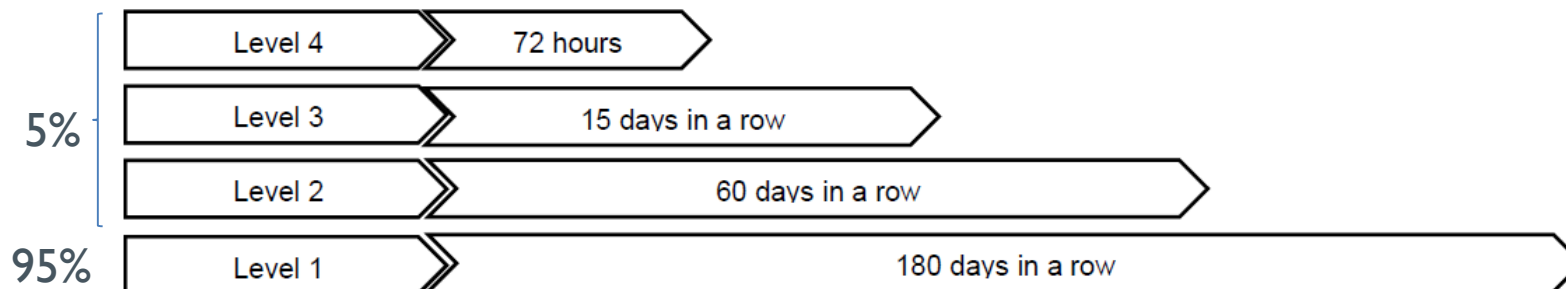




# CASE STUDY (WL 2018 Dec 28)

| Specialty     | Patients    |            | WT ≤180 days |             | WT > 180   |             | WT 181-270 days |            | WT 271-260 days |            | WT > 360 days |             | Surgeons  |
|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
|               | #           | %          | #            | %           | #          | %           | #               | %          | #               | %          | #             | %           |           |
| General       | 1043        | 36.5       | 745          | 71.4        | 298        | 28.6        | 91              | 8.7        | 55              | 5.3        | 151           | 14.5        | 14        |
| Plastic       | 295         | 10.3       | 292          | 99.0        | 3          | 1.0         | 3               | 1.0        | 0               | 0          | 0             | 0           | 2         |
| Stomatology   | 14          | 0.5        | 9            | 64.3        | 5          | 35.7        | 2               | 14.3       | 1               | 7.1        | 2             | 14.3        | 2         |
| Ophthalmology | 684         | 24.0       | 606          | 88.6        | 78         | 11.4        | 39              | 5.7        | 12              | 1.8        | 19            | 2.8         | 10        |
| Orthopedics   | 240         | 8.4        | 204          | 85.0        | 36         | 15.0        | 18              | 7.5        | 7               | 2.9        | 11            | 4.6         | 5         |
| ORL           | 226         | 7.9        | 104          | 46.0        | 122        | 54.0        | 21              | 9.3        | 7               | 3.1        | 94            | 41.6        | 4         |
| Pediatric     | 89          | 3.1        | 88           | 98.9        | 1          | 1.1         | 1               | 1.1        | 1               | 1.1        | 0             | 0           | 2         |
| Urology       | 265         | 9.3        | 117          | 44.2        | 148        | 55.8        | 20              | 7.5        | 22              | 8.3        | 106           | 40.0        | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2856</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>2165</b>  | <b>75.8</b> | <b>691</b> | <b>24.2</b> | <b>195</b>      | <b>6.8</b> | <b>105</b>      | <b>3.7</b> | <b>383</b>    | <b>13.4</b> | <b>43</b> |

## Elective surgery:




| Indicators                          | OR 1  | OR 2  | OR 3  | OR 4  | OR 5 | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Number of weekly allocated hours    | 48    | 48    | 12    | 30    | 36   | 198   |
| Average weekly number of used hours | 31.9  | 33.6  | 10    | 21    | 2.4  | 102   |
| Occupancy rate                      | 66.5% | 70.0% | 83.3% | 70.0% | 6.7% | 51.5% |

| Bed pool          | Specialties                    | Number of beds |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Pre-ward          | All specialties                | 32             |
| Surgery 1         | General, plastic, estomatology | 47             |
| Surgery 2         | General, estomatology, urology | 28             |
| Surgery 3         | Orthopedic, ophthalmology, ORL | 47             |
| Pediatric surgery | Pediatrics                     | 18             |
| Total             |                                | 172            |



# CASE STUDY

- Portuguese public hospital
  - Serves 325.237 people
  - 5 operating rooms
  - 8 surgical specialties
- Changes in surgical demand and staff pattern
- Almost unchanged MSS for more than 30 years
- High rates of idle OR time
- High waiting times for elective patients



|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Oncologia                           | ↑ |
| Liga Portuguesa Contra o Cancro     | ↑ |
| Cargas e Descargas                  | → |
| Consultas Externas Gerais           | ← |
| Consultas Externas de Pediatria     | ← |
| Visitas                             | ← |
| Informações                         | ← |
| Internamentos                       | ← |
| Laboratório de Saúde Pública        | ← |
| Imunohemoterapia                    | ← |
| Dadores de Sangue                   | ← |
| Entrada Principal (Outros Serviços) | ← |
| Unidade de Radioterapia             | ← |
| Unidades de Saúde Familiar          | ← |

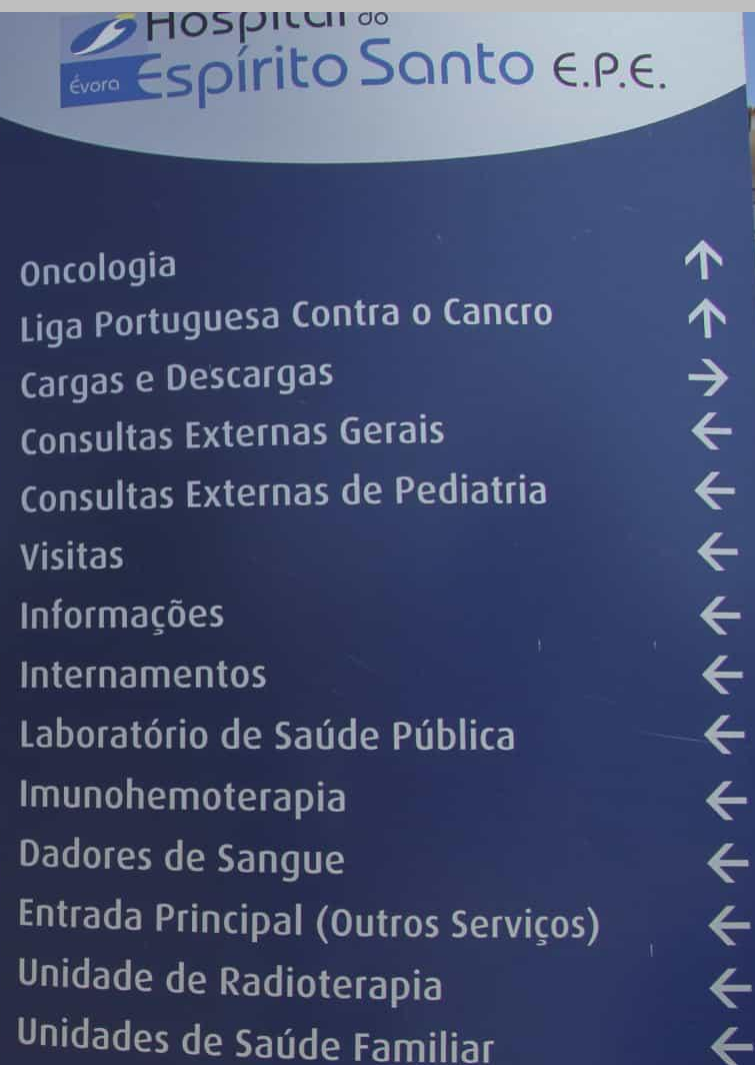
# CASE STUDY

|     | OR1             | OR2                          | OR3    | OR4       | OR5          |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| MON | C. Geral        | Urologia                     |        | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia |
|     | C. Geral        | C.Geral Tira I ou Tira II a) |        |           |              |
| TUE | C. Geral        | C. Geral                     |        | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia |
|     | C. Mama         | C. Plástica                  |        |           | Oftalmologia |
| WED | C. Plástica     | C. Pediátrica                |        | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia |
|     | C. Ger. Varizes |                              | O.R.L. |           |              |
| THU | C. Geral        | C. Geral                     |        | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia |
|     |                 | Urologia                     | O.R.L. |           |              |
| FRI | C. Geral        | Estomat. <sup>b)</sup>       |        | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia |
|     |                 | Implantofix <sup>c)</sup>    |        |           | c/ locais    |



# CASE STUDY

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- Capacity planning - MSS
  - Tactical (aggregate) level
- Long planning horizon
- MSS stability
- Max number of slots assigned to each specialty
  - specialty capacity
  - defined by the # doctors and the max workload of each surgeon
  - surgeon workload measured in number of slots
- Up- and downstream capacity







SURGICAL TEAM  
PREFERENCES



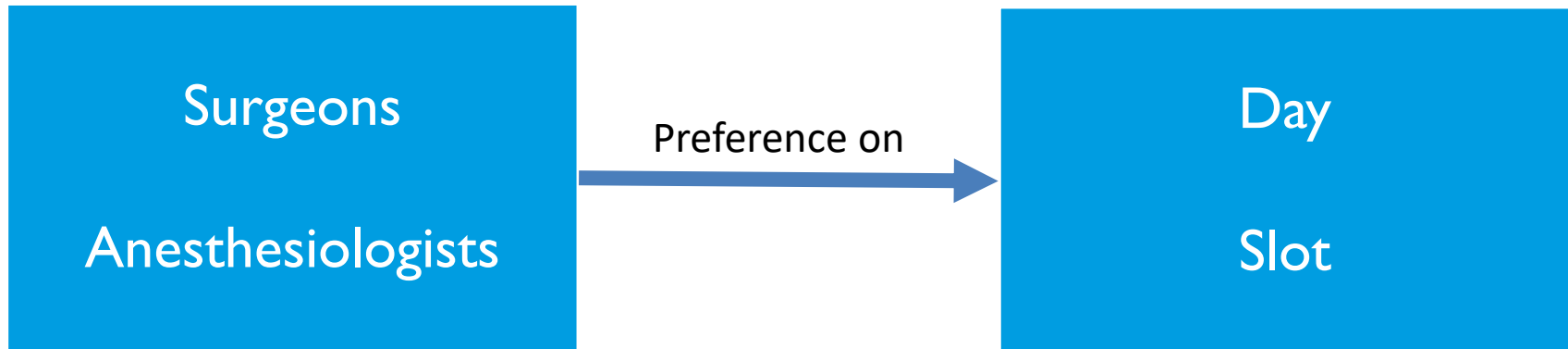
BALANCE SUPPLY AND  
DEMAND



UP- AND DOWNSTREAM  
UNITS WORKLOAD



## SURGICAL TEAM PREFERENCES





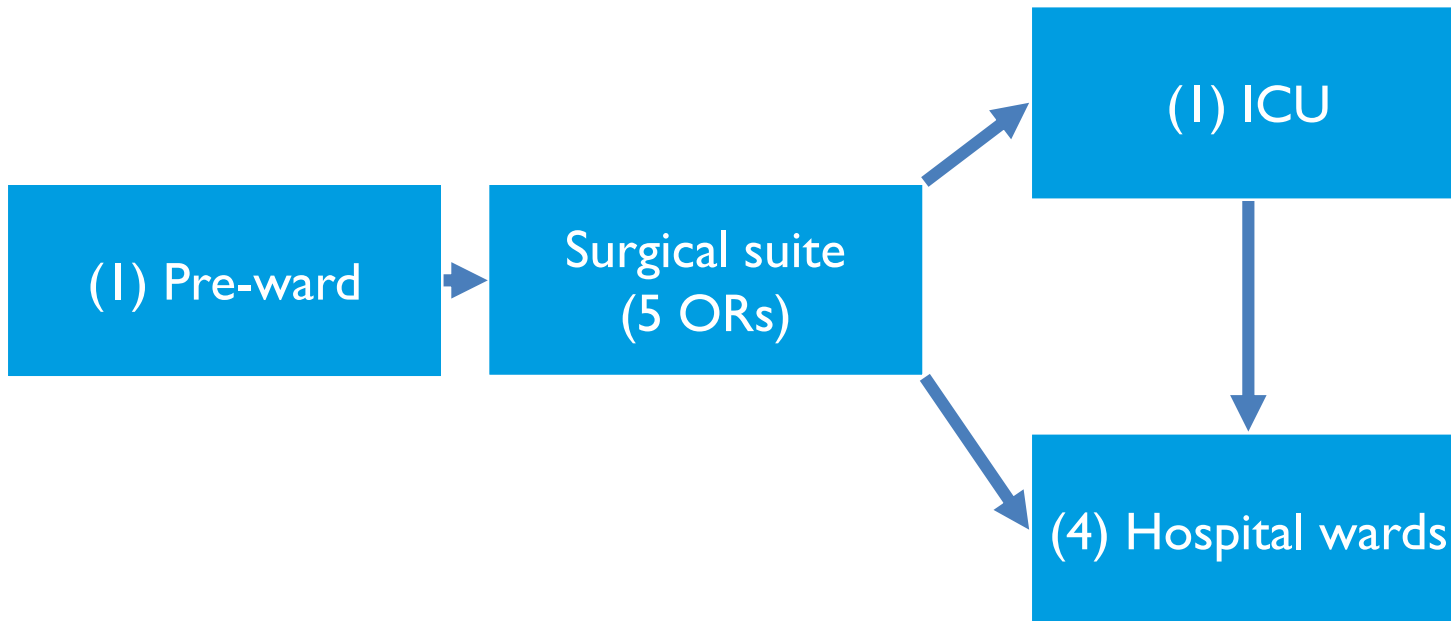
## BALANCE SUPPLY AND DEMAND

WL in 28-12-2018

| Specialties  | % Overall WL length (WL) | % Overall WL duration (WD) | % Allocated blocks (AB) | Difference (WL-AB) | Difference (WD-AB) |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General      | 36.5 %                   | 48.6 %                     | 37.2 %                  | - 0.7 %            | 11.4 %             |
| Plastic      | 10.3 %                   | 8.6 %                      | 6.6 %                   | 3.7 %              | 2.0 %              |
| Stomatology  | 0.5 %                    | 0.3 %                      | 0.3 %                   | 0.2 %              | 0.0 %              |
| Ophtalmology | 24.0 %                   | 13.6 %                     | 18.6 %                  | 5.4 %              | -5.0 %             |
| Orthopedics  | 8.4 %                    | 10.0 %                     | 16.3 %                  | -7.9 %             | -6.3 %             |
| ORL          | 7.9 %                    | 5.8 %                      | 9.2 %                   | - 1.3 %            | -3.4 %             |
| Pediatric    | 3.1 %                    | 1.3 %                      | 2.4 %                   | 0.7 %              | -1.1 %             |
| Urology      | 9.3 %                    | 11.8 %                     | 9.3 %                   | 0.0 %              | 2.5 %              |

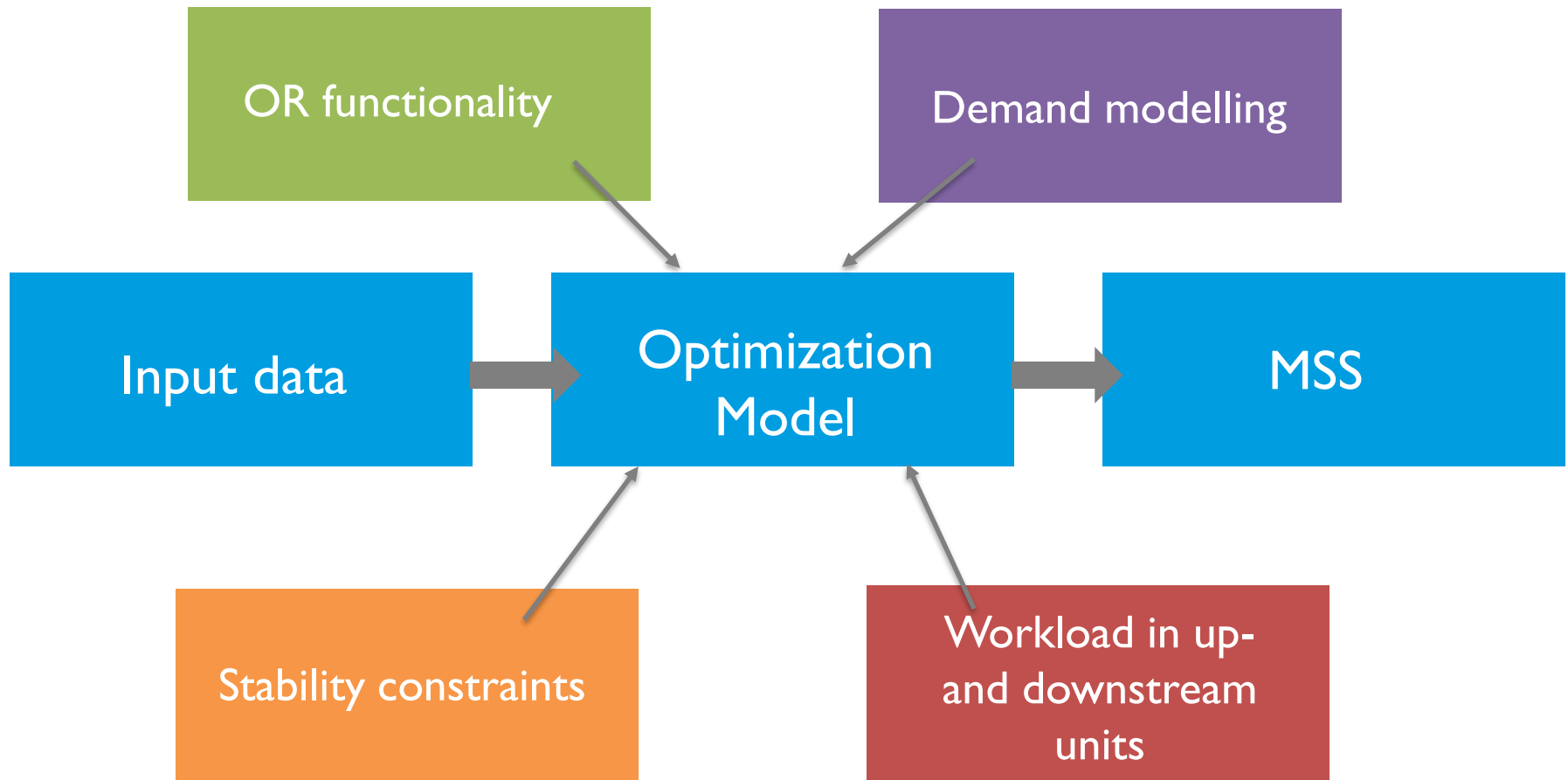


## UP- AND DOWNSTREAM UNITS WORKLOAD





| Objectives               | Surgical team preferences | Balance supply and demand | Up and downstream units workload | Stability/Flexibility of MSS |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Banditori et al. (2013)  |                           | # PAT WL + DUE DATE       |                                  |                              |
| Abdelrasol et al. (2014) |                           |                           |                                  | MOD BLOCK SCHED              |
| Malik et al. (2015)      |                           | MIN # PAT WL              |                                  |                              |
| Visintin et al. (2016)   |                           |                           |                                  | FLEX_ALLOW VAR               |
| Abedini et al. (2017)    |                           |                           | PAT FLOW                         |                              |
| Dellaert et al. (2017)   |                           |                           | TARGET WORKLOAD                  |                              |
| Penn et al. (2017)       | MAX SURG PEF              |                           |                                  |                              |
| Marques et al. (2019)    |                           |                           | MIN VARIABILITY                  | MAX STAB                     |
| <b>OUR PROPOSAL</b>      | <b>SURG + ANEST PEF</b>   | <b>OR TIME</b>            | <b>TARGET WORK + CAP</b>         | <b>STAB CONSTRAINT</b>       |



$$\sum_{s \in S} x_{swdbr} \leq 1 \quad \forall w \in W, d \in D, b \in B, r \in R$$

$$\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq slots_w \quad \forall w \in W$$

$$\delta^{surg} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq a_{swdb}^{surg} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W, d \in D, b \in B$$

$$\delta^{surg} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq \sum_{i \in I_s} a_{iwd}^{surgD} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W, d \in D$$

$$\delta^{surg} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq \sum_{i \in I_s} ww_i^{surg} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W$$

$$\delta^{anest} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq a_{wdb}^{anest} \quad \forall w \in W, d \in D, b \in B$$

$$\delta^{anest} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq \sum_{a \in A} a_{awd}^{anestD} \quad \forall w \in W, d \in D$$

$$\delta^{anest} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \leq \sum_{a \in A} ww_a^{anest} \quad \forall w \in W$$

$$\sum_{w \in W} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} \geq mw_{sm} \quad \forall s \in S, m \in M$$

## OR Functionality

## Demand modelling

$$p_{sw} = p_{s,w-1} + ent_{s,w-1} - \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} \lambda_s x_{s,w-1,d,b,r} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W \setminus \{1\}$$

$$p_{s1} = inic_s \quad \forall s \in S$$

$$t_{sw} = p_{sw} dur_s \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W$$

$$\theta \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} x_{swdbr} + t_{sw}^- - t_{sw}^+ = t_{sw} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W$$

Input  
data



$$\max \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{w \in W} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} \left( \frac{\sum_{i \in I_s} \kappa_{idb}^{surg}}{|I|} + \frac{\sum_{a \in A} \kappa_{adb}^{anest}}{|A|} \right) x_{swdbr}$$

$$- \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{w \in W} (t_{sw}^- + t_{sw}^+) - \sum_{z \in Z} w_z \sum_{k \in K} \frac{u_{zk}^- + u_{zk}^+}{u_{zk}}$$

Stability

$$|x_{swdbr} - x_{sw_{1m}dbr}| = y_{swdbr} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W_m \setminus \{w_{1m}\}, m \in M, d \in D, b \in B, r \in R$$

$$\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} y_{swdbr} \leq \Delta_w \quad \forall w \in W$$

$$|x_{swdbr} - x_{sldbr}| = j_{swdbr} \quad \forall s \in S, w \in W_m, m \in M \setminus \{1\}, l = w - \sum_{g < m} |W_g|, d \in D, b \in B, r \in R$$

$$\sum_{s \in S} \sum_{w \in W_m} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} j_{swdbr} \leq \Delta_m \quad \forall m \in M$$

Up and downstream units

$$0 \leq f_{zk} - \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{b \in B} \sum_{r \in R} \sum_{l=0}^{n_{zs}-1} \lambda_s e_{zsk} x_{s,w,d \pm l, b, r} \leq 1 \quad \forall z \in Z, k \in K : k \rightarrow (w, d), w \in W, d \in D$$

$$f_{zk} + u_{zk}^- - u_{zk}^+ = u_{zk} \quad \forall z \in Z, k \in K$$

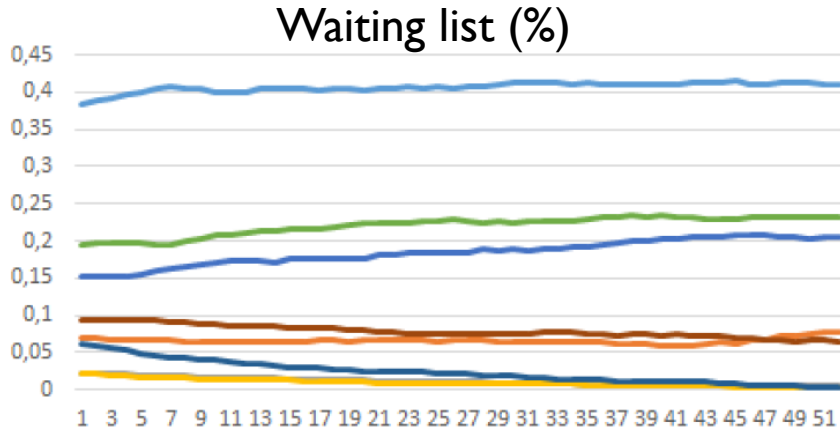
$$u_{zk}^+ \leq c_{zk} - u_{zk} \quad \forall z \in Z, k \in K$$

$$u_{zk}^- \leq G(1 - v_{zk}^u) \quad \forall z \in Z, k \in K$$

$$u_{zk}^+ \leq G v_{zk}^u \quad \forall z \in Z, k \in K$$

|     | OR1             | OR2   | OR3      | OR4       | OR5                       |
|-----|-----------------|---|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| MON | C. Geral        | Urologia  |          | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia              |
|     | C. Geral        | C. Geral Tira I ou Tira II a)                       | Urgência |           |                           |
| TUE | C. Geral        | C. Geral  | Urgência | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia              |
|     | C. Mama         | C. Plástica   |          |           | Oftalmologia              |
| WED | C. Plástica     | C. Pediátrica                                       | Urgência | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia              |
|     | C. Ger. Varizes | Urgência  | O.R.L.   |           |                           |
| THU | C. Geral        | C. Geral  | Urgência | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia              |
|     | Urgência        | Urologia  | O.R.L.   |           |                           |
| FRI | C. Geral        | Estomat. <sup>b)</sup><br>Implantofix <sup>c)</sup> | Urgência | Ortopedia | Oftalmologia<br>c/ locais |

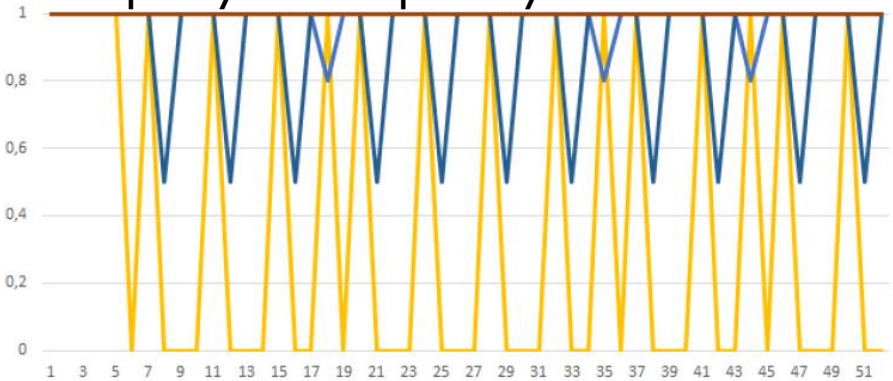
## Real Capacity



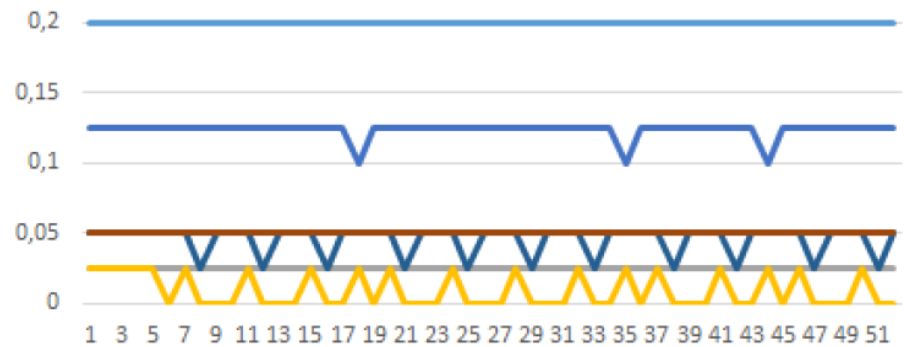
Low demand

High demand, short surgeries, high resources consumption

Specialty capacity (%), compared to the max capacity of the specialty



Allocated slots (%): percentage of total available slots



Specialties at max capacity



Low compliance supply vs demand

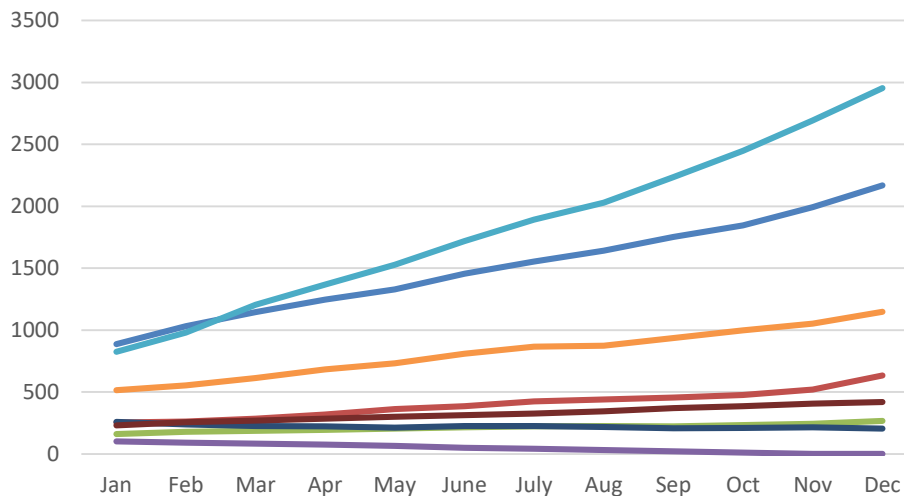


Only 55% slots assigned

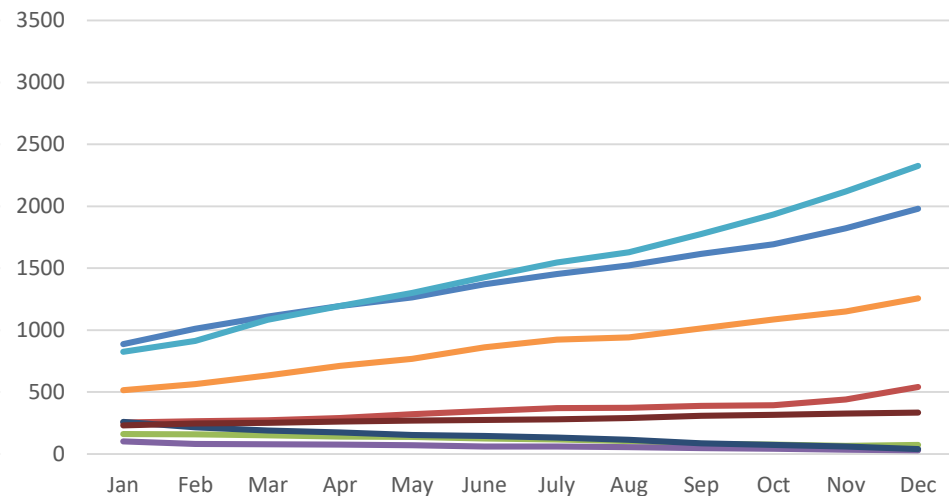
- General surgery    — Plastic surgery    — Pediatric
- Stomatology        — Ophthalmology    — Orthopedics
- ORL                    — Urology

## ■ Real Capacity: Evolution of the waiting list

WL Evolution - Hospital



WL Evolution - Real Instance



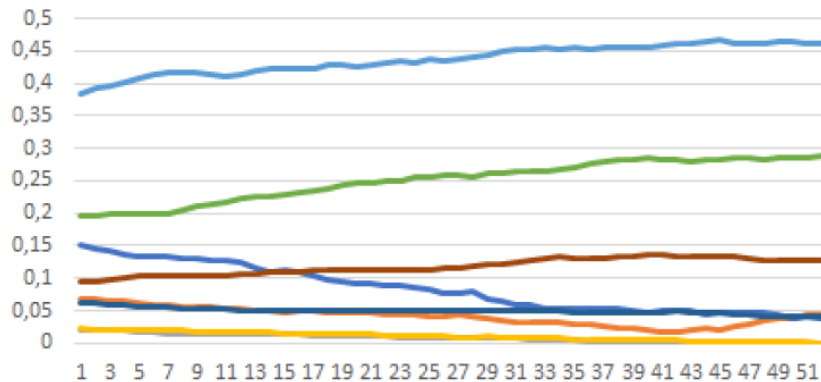
- ✓ Capacity constraints
- ✓ Better management of low resources



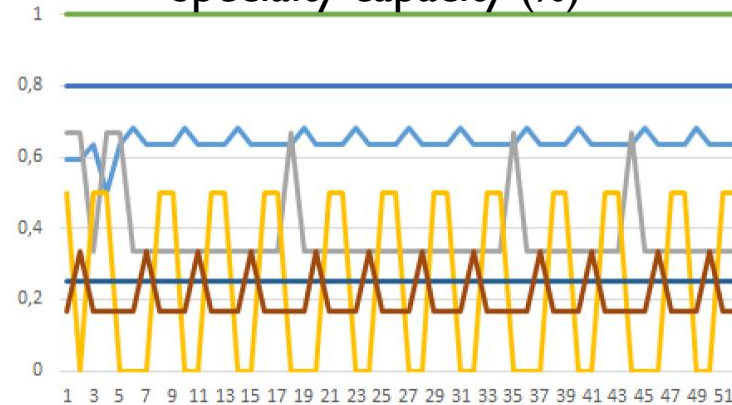
High demand, long surgeries, 5 surgeons – difficult to match demand

## Increased Capacity (Real Capacity + 2 slots per doctor)

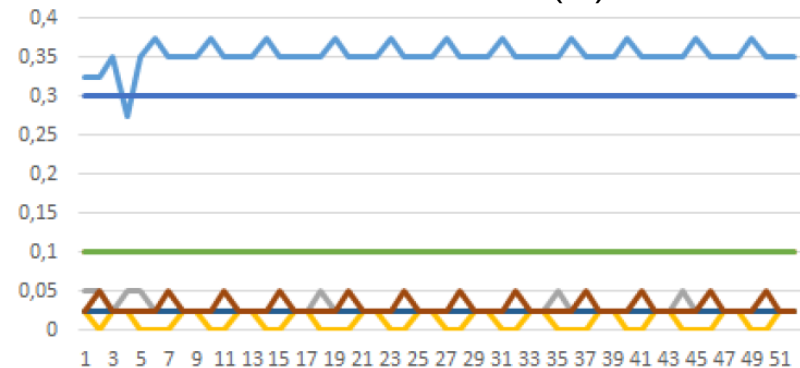
### Waiting list (%)



### Specialty capacity (%)



### Allocated slots (%)



— General surgery    — Plastic surgery    — Pediatric  
— Stomatology    — Ophthalmology    — Orthopedics  
— ORL    — Urology



More flexibility regarding capacity



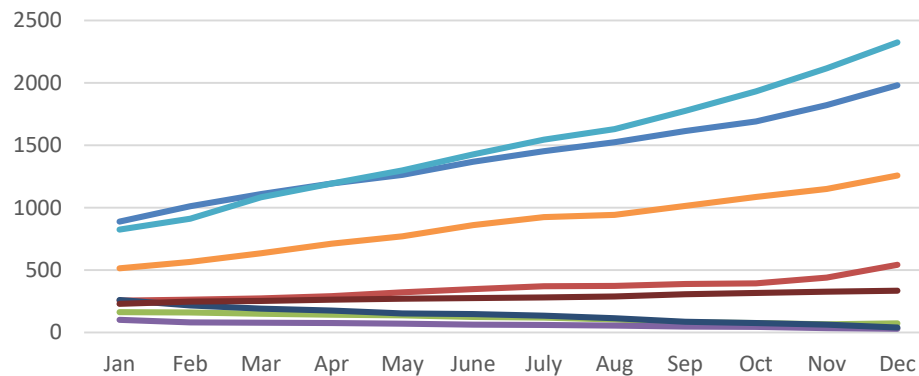
Better compliance supply vs demand



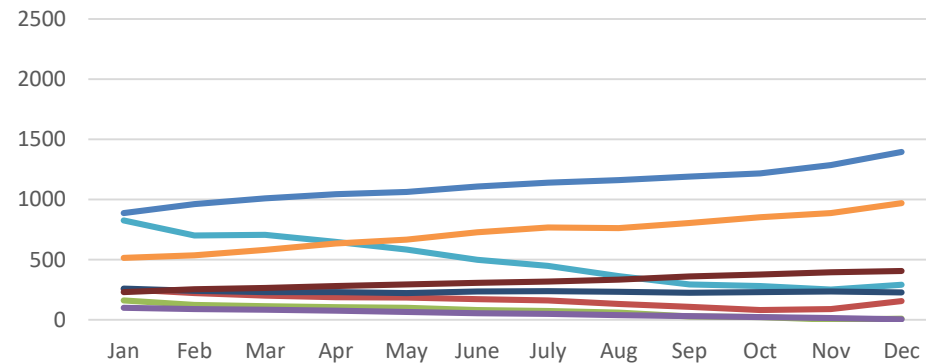
About 95% slots assigned

## ■ Increased Capacity: Evolution of the waiting list

WL Evolution - Real Instance\*



WL Evolution - Increased Capacity



\* Assuming 100% utilization

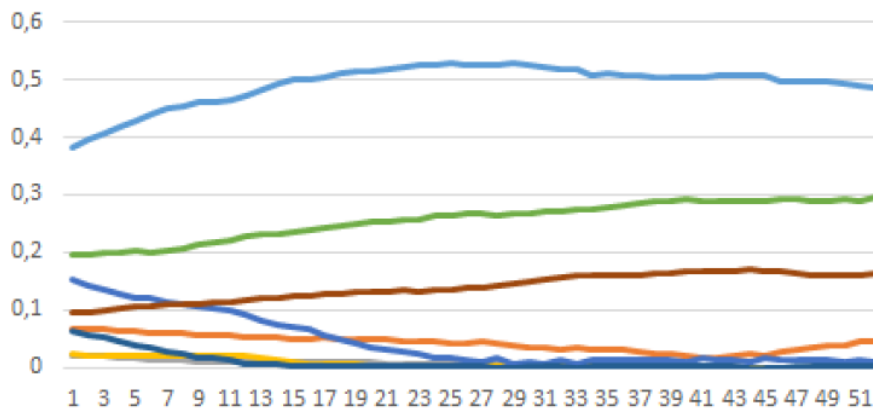
- ✓ WL reduces for large demand specialties
- ✓ Ophthalmology, General surgery, Orthopedics (lower decrease)

| Specialty | General | Plastic | Pediatric | Stomathology | Ophtalmology | Orthopedics | ORL | Urology |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----|---------|
| #Doctors  | 14      | 2       | 2         | 2            | 10           | 5           | 4   | 4       |

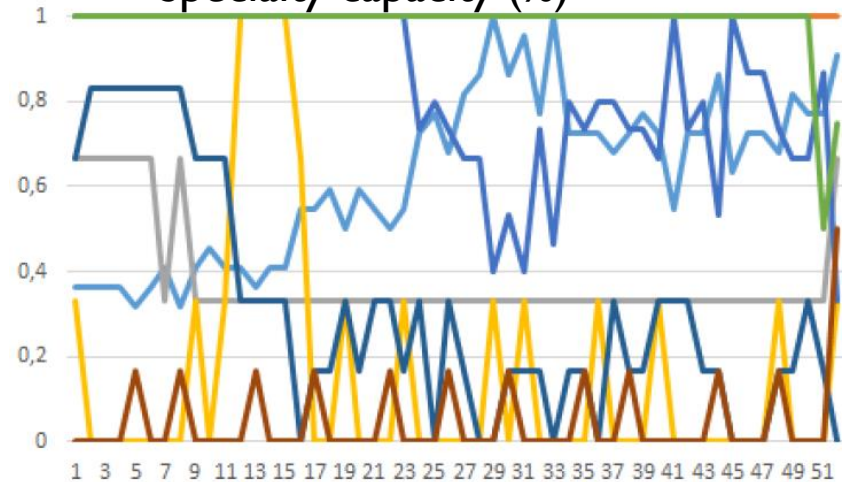
— General    — Plastic    — Pediatric    — Stomatology  
— Ophthalmology    — Orthopedics    — ORL    — Urology

## ■ Increased Capacity + No Stability Constraints

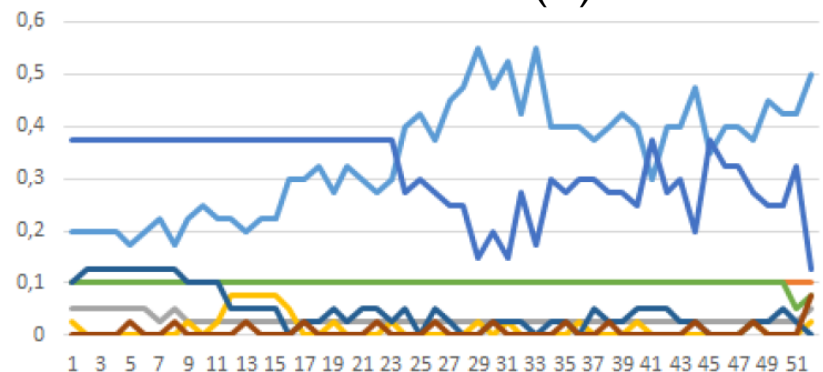
Waiting list (%)



Specialty capacity (%)



Allocated slots (%)



More flexibility to chase demand



Potential to schedule more patients



About 95% slots assigned

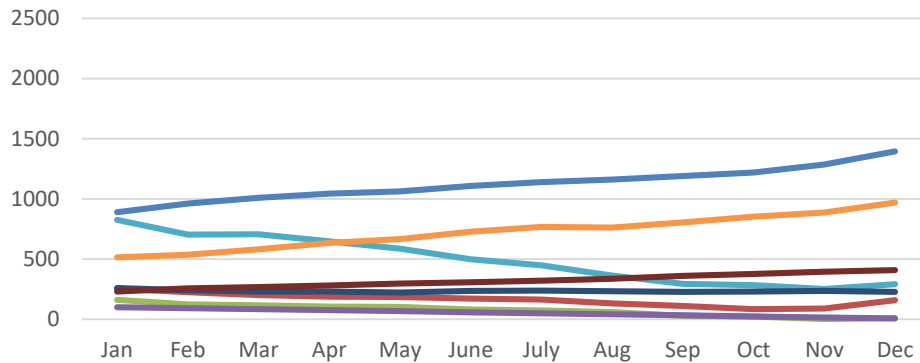


Doctors not satisfied

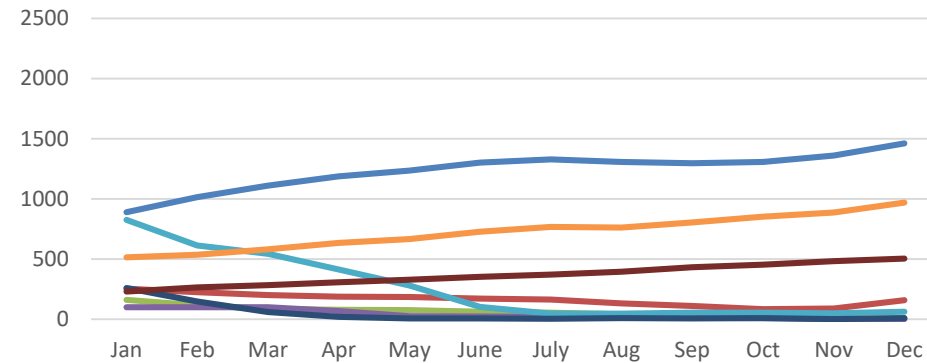


## ■ No Stability Constraints: Evolution of the waiting list

WL Evolution - Increased Capacity (IC)



WL Evolution – IC without Stability



- ✓ WL reduces for most specialties
- ✓ Except **General surgery** and **Orthopedics** (already reduced in IC) and **Urology** (4 surgeons)
- ✓ Schedules more patients
- ✓ Tradeoff nb of surgeries vs surgeons satisfaction



Static & old MSS  
Inefficient use of OR  
Long WT



Major bottleneck: workforce (mainly surgeons)  
Stability constraints and workload capacity influence the  
compliance with the dynamic demand

Predictive model  
for demand  
forecast

Consistent models  
for stakeholders'  
preferences

Sensitivity analysis  
on stability  
parameters

Simulation model  
for an evaluation of  
the model at  
disaggregated level

Impact of  
preferences in OR  
utilization

# Reallocating operating room time: a Portuguese case

## Thank you!

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PORTUGAL  
2020

UNIÃO EUROPEIA  
Fundo Europeu  
de Desenvolvimento Regional