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Introduction

- The Outpatient Access Soft Tissue Infection Service (OASIS) is a plastic surgery clinic based at an urban county hospital with a catchment area >3 million
- OASIS serves patients with emergent soft tissue infections and provides services such as abscess drainage, antimicrobial therapy, and soft tissue mass excisions.
- From our review of literature, OASIS is the only subspecialized open-access clinic of its kind
- Patients are served on a drop-in ‘first come first serve’ basis
- Out study aims to show the necessity of this clinic model in preserving healthcare access for marginalized patient populations

Methods

- A retrospective chart review was conducted for all new patients who presented to OASIS during a 1 year period (2021-2022)
- A wide set of demographics were collected for comparison to county level demographics.
- Latest Census and city government was collected to determine population demographics for comparison.
- Odds ratios were calculated to identify disparities in healthcare access that OASIS addresses.

Results

Cohort Overview

- Our cohort of 486 patients was primarily male (67%)
- Average age was 50.87 ± 14.86

Demographic Comparisons

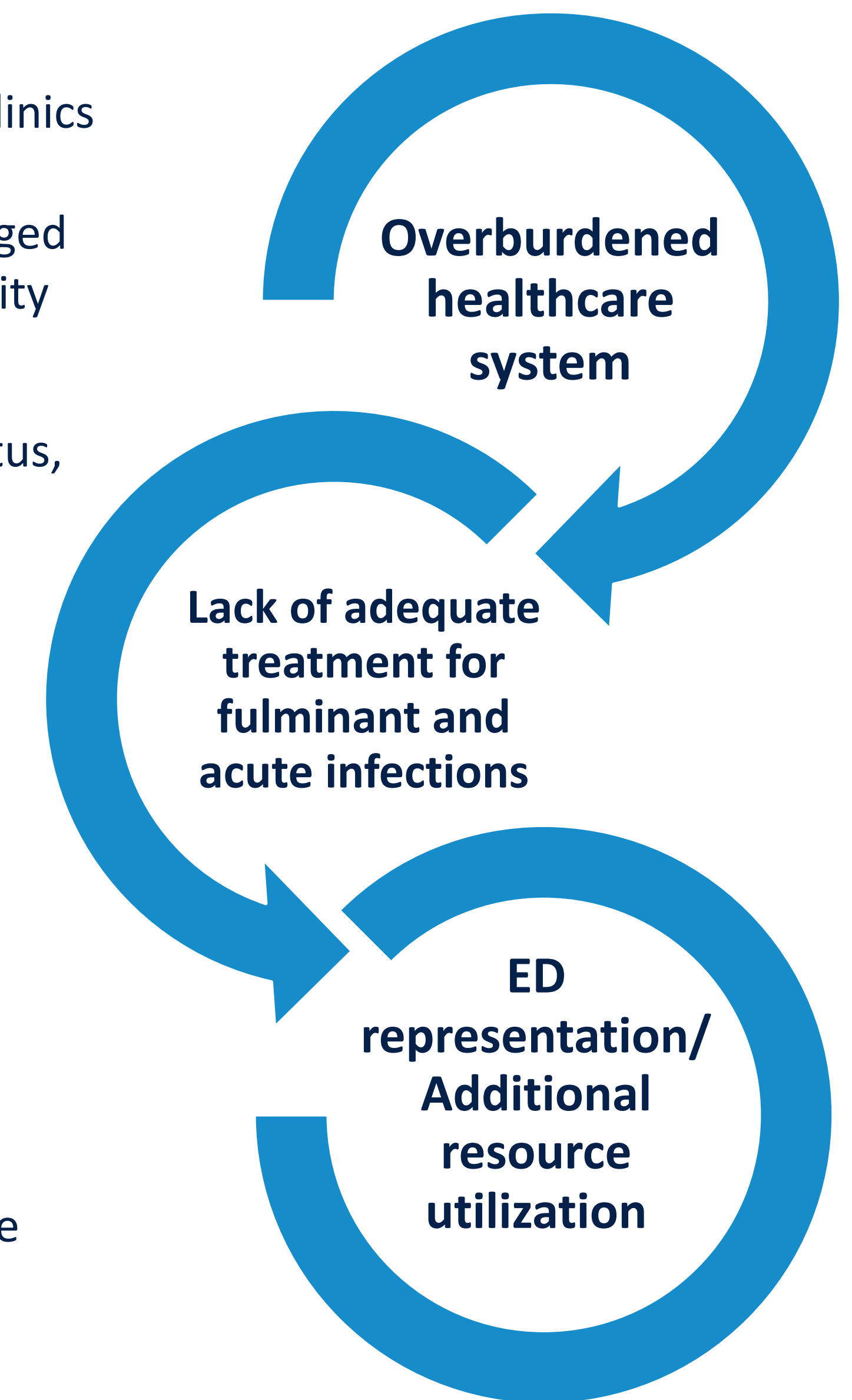
- Compared to the city’s populations, our OASIS cohort had more Black and Hispanic patients and less White and Asian patients by proportion
- Our clinic was more likely to serve unemployed individuals (OR = 1.23), retired individuals (OR = 1.50), and disabled individuals (OR = 2.94). It was less likely to serve employed individuals (OR = 0.30).
- OASIS served significantly more unhoused and sheltered individuals by proportion (OR = 16.84, 20.86)
- OASIS primarily served patients on public insurance (OR = 27.99)

Table 1: Odds Ratios of Cohort Versus Population (Selected Characteristics)

	OASIS Cohort (n=486)	City Level Data (n=800,000)	Odds Ratio	Confidence Interval	p
Housing Status					
Unhoused	8.0%	0.5%	16.84	(12.1, 23.4)	**<.001
Shelter	7.6%	0.4%	20.86	(14.9, 29.2)	**<.001
Housed	82.5%	99.1%	0.04	(0.03, 0.05)	**<.001
Employment					-
Employed	37.0%	66.4%	0.30	(0.25, 0.36)	**<.001
Unemployed	24.3%	20.7%	1.23	(1.00, 1.52)	*0.049
Retired	13.6%	9.5%	1.50	(1.16, 1.94)	**<.001
Disability	9.5%	3.4%	2.94	(2.17, 3.98)	**<.001
Insurance Status					
Private Insurance	4.7%	69.3%	0.02	(0.01, 0.03)	**<.001
Public Insurance	91.6%	27.9%	27.99	(20.3, 38.5)	**<.001

Discussion

- Accessible outpatient soft tissue clinics are much more likely to service underrepresented and disadvantaged populations in the urban community
- These identities encompass employment status, insurance status, and housing status
- The flexible ‘drop-in’ services may encourage patients to seek out earlier treatment of their soft tissue infections
- By intervening earlier, infection treatment requires less resource activation, reducing load from an overburdened healthcare system
- City and census data are valuable resources for evaluating healthcare utilization and equity



Conclusion

- OASIS disproportionately serves at-risk and traditionally underserved populations of the community that may otherwise experience great difficulty and stigma in accessing care for soft tissue infections
- Accessible outpatient clinics are a sustainable model of care that diverts patients away from overburdened public health systems such as Emergency Departments
- An outpatient model is viable for treating hand infections and provides additional benefits towards achieving greater healthcare equity