

PAEDIATRIC SURGICAL TRAINING IN THE UK - HOW SATISFIED ARE WE?

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Aim of the Study: The General Medical Council conducts an annual National Training Survey for all UK trainees to monitor their quality of medical education and training. In 2016, for the first time, aggregated survey results for units with three or fewer trainees, as is applicable to many Paediatric Surgical Units, were published. We sought to identify current satisfaction with training as well as identifying any regional variation.

Methods: The 2016 survey was conducted online between March-May 2016. Trainees were asked to provide responses to generic and specialty specific questions. Survey responses were accessed online (<http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/surveys.asp>).

Main Results: The median number of survey responses was 98 (96-100). Overall satisfaction with training was reported to be "Excellent" or "Good" in 83% of cases. This rating was comprised of quality of teaching (75%), supervision (94%) and experience in the post (98%).

In the year preceding the survey, 70% of trainees had presented at and 80% had attended a national/international meeting. 63% of trainees had at least one accepted peer-reviewed publication.

78% felt they were receiving appropriate exposure to index operations. Of those that did not, 30% cited competition for cases from Consultants as the reason. Widespread variation was noted across the 11 Local Education Training Boards (Figure 1), with 37% of ST7 and 12% of ST8 trainees reporting lack of exposure to index cases. Only 31% of trainees felt they would get a substantive post at the end of their training.

Conclusion: Paediatric Surgical Trainees report a high level of satisfaction with their training with a large proportion fulfilling research requirements set out by the JCST. Widespread variation, however, exists when comparing exposure to index cases. Competition from Consultants is a worrying trend, which is likely to further compound lack of exposure in training.

Figure 1 - National Variation across the LETBs when asked "In your current post, do you receive appropriate exposure to index operations?"

