Letter to the Editor

Correspondence to: Financial impact of surgical training on hospital economics: An income, analysis of 1184 out-patient clinic consultations

Dear Editor,

We would like to commend the authors on such an interesting and thought-provoking paper in terms of the implications for surgical training. As surgical trainees, we have seen too often service provision taking priority over training opportunities and often have felt the need to stay in hospital during out of hours to gain the necessary additional experience.

A surgical trainee’s needs are not that complex. Within the service provision part of the job, we achieve plenty of time seeing patients on the ward or in clinic, which is an important part of training. However, what suffers is the operative experience required in theatre. Trainees are now involved in less and less operations\(^1\) and this change in culture has the potential to result in poorer patient outcomes in the long-term through less experienced consultants. Indeed, trainees who have worked abroad, especially in South Africa or Australia, often feel that the experience they have acquired abroad holds them in good stead amongst their peers.\(^3\)

In addition to this, there are clear differences amongst trusts and trainers with regards to the level of training and support they provide. We strongly agree with the authors’ suggestion that trusts should compete for trainees and we advocate that trusts who have consistently failed to support trainees or facilitate in their training should not be allowed to receive any further trainees.

Ethical approval

N/A.

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Author contribution

All authors discussed the paper amongst themselves and contributed to the writing of this correspondence.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

References


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