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Interns perception of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays because of excess competition it is important for an undergraduate to pursue post graduation. Thus it is important for our education system to know students attitude towards pursuing a speciality subject for post graduation. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the Interns perception in choosing oral and maxillofacial surgery as a speciality for post graduation. A questionnaire was structured and validated for face evaluation and content value. The questionnaire was distributed among 100 interns in our institution of 2015-2016 batch who filled up their forms during regular posting sessions .The questionnaire helped to elicit the information regarding demography and 10 items assessing perception attitude of interns towards oral and maxillofacial surgery. The success rate was 91% out of which 58% would like to pursue oral surgery as a speciality. The main conclusion of the study stated that students find oral surgery as an interesting subject to study and they would opt for it as a speciality for post graduation.

Keywords: Oral surgery, training, Dental internship, scope.

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INTRODUCTION

A vast series of progresses are taking place in the field of oral surgery but still many people are not aware of the speciality and what do oral surgeons do.[1] Oral surgery includes extractions alveoloplasty, minor surgical procedures, management of traumatic injuries and management of medical emergencies. The speciality of oral and maxillofacial surgery encompasses the diagnosis and surgical management of a variety of pathologic, functional, esthetic conditions of oral and maxillofacial region.[2] But ,among undergraduate students, oral surgery is synonymous with extractions.

One of the basic concerns of dental extractions is to train students who are not comfortable with techniques of clinical dentistry. These students are also not very competent in diagnosis to improve quality of life for their patients.[3] Oral surgery is mainly considered as a difficult and stressful subject by students. The vast variety of techniques, immense amount of blood ,and array of different instruments and materials makes several students uncomfortable which tend to lesser the confidence to deal with surgical procedures. This insecurity may lead to insufficient clinical and didactic teaching curriculum.[4] Therefore, dental schools should take the responsibility to prepare their student to undertake simple extractions, minor surgical procedures on graduation .In India ,the undergraduate training in oral surgery is limited to simple extractions with forceps. Thus, undergraduate students and interns are considered amateur .Therefore it is necessary that institutions understand to which extent oral surgery training has to be imparted to students before they graduate. This will allow students to do basic surgical procedures, choosing oral surgery as a speciality and whether in this institution or not. This study enables student to be provided with proper training and understanding in Oral Maxillofacial surgery to make them confident to do minor procedure, gain interest in the subject and choose it as a speciality in post graduation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in our institution with the permission of IRB to evaluate the interns perception in choosing Oral and Maxillofacial surgery as a speciality for post graduation The study was questionnaire based study and involved 100 interns of 2015-2016 batch .It was a questionnaire based study which was formed. The questionnaire was validated for face evaluation and content value. The students filled these forms during regular posting sessions .All the answers were kept confidential .and no individual students were identified .The students were not allowed to reparticipate in the study once it was completed .The questionnaire helped to elicit the information regarding demography and 10 items assessing perception and attitude of interns towards oral and maxillofacial surgery. Informed consent was obtained prior to questionnaire administration. The data obtained from the study were subjected to statistical analysis using package of social sciences and proportions.

RESULTS

A total of 100 interns were invited to participate in the survey out of which 80 interns completed questionnaire. The overall response rate was 80%.The analyses for question 1 showed that 91 % of interns were interested to learn oral surgery. About 77% of interns think that oral surgery enables them to confidently deal with patients. With present undergraduate training 62% interns feel that they can confidently do extractions. Analysis of question 4 showed that 42.2% think that they are not capable of managing medical emergencies by present undergraduate training. Ninety two percentages of interns feel that proper oral surgery training will allow them to cope with medical emergencies. Extractions are the most commonly performed procedure by them are felt by about 92% of interns. Internship is the most appropriate year for oral surgery training about 38% of interns agree with this. Analysis of question 8 showed that 77% regard oral surgery to be highly specialized field. About 58% would like to pursue oral surgery as postgraduate speciality out of which 17% would like to pursue it from this institution.

Question no.	Responses	Interns(total)
Question 1 Do you find oral surgery an interesting subject to learn?	Yes No Don't know	73(91%) 6(0.7%) 1(0.01%)
Question 2 Do you think the oral surgery training enables you to confidently deal with patients?	Yes No Don't know	62(77%) 14(17%) 4(5%)
Question 3 With undergraduate training do you feel you will be confident to do extractions?	Yes No Don't know	50(62%) 10(12%) 20(25%)
Question 4 Are you capable of managing medical emergencies in dental office?	Yes No Don't know	24(62%) 33(12%) 23(25%)
Question 5 Do you think training in oral surgery will allow you to do so?	Yes No Don't know	74(92%) 0 6(7%)
Question 6 What do you perceive is the most commonly performed procedure in oral surgery?	Management of traumatic injuries Alveoloplasty Extractions others	6(7%) 2(2%) 70(87%) 2(2%)
Question 7 Which academic year, do you think is appropriate for clinical oral surgery training?	Third year Fourth year Internship Post graduation	21(26%) 26(32%) 31(38%) 2(2%)
Question 8 How do you regard the specialty of Oral surgery?	Highly Poorly Not decided	62(77%) 4(5%) 14(17%)
Question 9 Would you like to pursue oral surgery as a specialty?	Yes No Not decided	47(58%) 13(16%) 20(25%)
Question 10 If yes, would you like to pursue it in this institution?	Yes No Don't know	14(17%) 42(52%) 24(30%)

DISCUSSION

The treatment technique and materials in oral surgery have changed rapidly and vastly since previous times thus it is important for interns to confidently treat patients. Oral surgery is a vast field of traumatic surgeries, treatments of different pathologies, various reconstructive surgeries and different cosmetic surgeries.[5] Even a small degree of exposure to oral and maxillofacial surgery improves understanding and scope of speciality among undergraduates. According to Chamber, an improvement in performance occurs as student progresses through a series of learning processes.[6] Thus while designing curriculum and evaluation it is needed for the educators to recognize problems and modify the curriculum.[7] Awareness of the scope of Oral Maxillofacial surgery should lead to improved access and efficient delivery of a quality service. Our medical and dental colleagues need to have the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions about their patient's management.[8]When learning new techniques undergraduate students require to explicit directions

and instructions in small steps ,as they work towards achieving competence in performing more complex task in clinical settings.[9]The survey revealed that 91% of students find oral surgery as an interesting subject.

The survey stated that with proper training in oral surgery 77% students are confident enough to deal with patients. Therefore the quality with which they deal with patients also increases. In June 2006, the Department of Health in Britain lead a speciality training program in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery mainly for undergraduate students in dentistry. [10]The result showed that training enabled interns to ensure best patient care. With proper undergraduate training 50% think that they can confidently handle extractions whereas 25% are not sure about it.

A survey done in the 90's showed that, over a 10 year period, 90% of dentists have encountered at least one medical emergency.[11]Thus the most important aspect in a dental clinic is that the doctor should be capable of managing medical emergencies. Studies showed in Japan that medical emergencies were most likely to occur during and after local anesthesia, primarily during tooth extractions therefore it is important for interns to be capable of managing medical emergencies with proper oral surgery training.[12]About 92% of interns think they can confidently deal with medical emergencies eighth proper training.

The most commonly performed procedure by interns is extractions .Thus the study revealed 87% of interns commonly perform extractions during their postings.

Studies conducted that the area of interest and scope of practice of the surgeon is generally influenced by both prequalification (during training) and postqualification (after training) experience. As observed by Brennan, insufficient exposure affects the competence and hence area of interest. [13]. Ameerally et al stated that if patients are to receive the optimal treatment for oral and facial problems, dental and medical practitioners need to have a better understanding of what our speciality has to offer.[14]

Dhima *et al.* dental evaluated students perception on dental specialties and factor that can play an important role in students decision to pursue specialty training or career choices and concluded that enjoyment of providing care in a specialty or field was identified as the single most important factor in choosing a specialty career.[15]

A study conducted by Krishnaraj et al stated that dental practitioners consider oral surgery as a highly specialized field. [16]Similar results were obtained from our survey stating that about 77% of students feel oral surgery is a highly specialized field results also showed that 58% of interns would like to pursue oral surgery as a speciality for post graduation. The vast array of different topics of oral surgery interests the students to take it up as a speciality. They tend to review new cases now and then tend to keep them interested in the field. Thus it is a positive sign for the speciality.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion drawn from the study was that most interns would like to pursue oral surgery as a speciality. Thus the need of the hour is to emphasis undergraduate training in field of oral surgery. Oral surgery is a vibrant, evolving and interesting clinical subject. Proper training at undergraduate level prepares graduates to provide good basic patient care in clinical practice.

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