



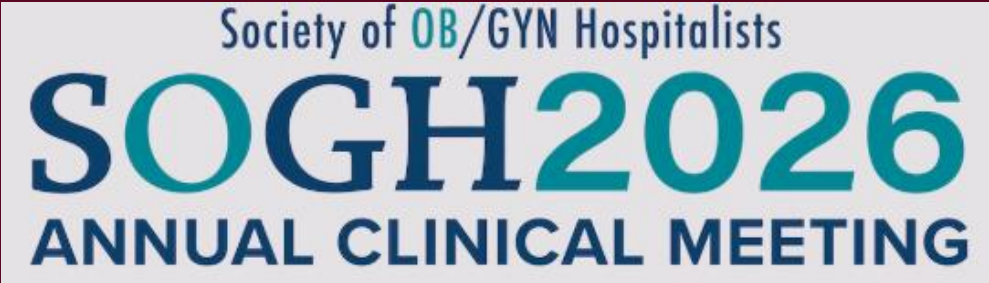
Mind the Gap: Confidence Declines with Increasing Surgical Complexity Among Obstetrics & Gynecology Residents

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Introduction

Confidence is a crucial trait for surgeons to develop. Research has shown that confidence levels among surgical trainees are declining. A survey of 653 graduating General Surgery residents revealed that over 25% felt uncertain about performing the surgeries expected of them (Fonseca et. al, 2014).

Objectives

- Understand Ob/Gyn residents’ confidence levels performing low-, medium-, and high-complexity surgery
- Innovate curriculum to address the confidence gap associated with complex surgeries
- Encourage allyship between attendings and residents for seeking feedback and improving coaching during highly complex gynecologic surgery

Methods

IRB approval was obtained to survey 18 Obstetrics & Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) residents at a single, academic program on their confidence in three areas: performing surgeries, seeking feedback and communicating with the attending physicians.

The surgeries assessed ranged from low-complexity (hysteroscopy with dilation and curettage) to medium-complexity (laparoscopic hysterectomy) and high-complexity (exploratory laparotomy, total abdominal hysterectomy, and tumor debulking).

Tables

Demographic Data (Table 1)		Total (N=18)
What PGY are you?, n (%)		
PGY1	5 (27.8%)	
PGY2	3 (16.7%)	
PGY3	5 (27.8%)	
PGY4	5 (27.8%)	
What is your age?		
Missing	1	
Median (IQR)	29.0 (28.0, 31.0)	
What is your gender?, n (%)		
Woman	15 (83.3%)	
Man	3 (16.7%)	
Race, n (%)		
White	10 (58.8%)	
Asian	6 (35.3%)	
Black	1 (5.9%)	
Missing	1	
What is your ethnicity?, n (%)		
Not Hispanic or Latino	17 (94.4%)	
Hispanic or Latino	1 (5.6%)	

Results (Table 2)		
I feel confident communicating with my attending during a hysteroscopy dilation and curettage		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	9.0 (7.0, 10.0)	
Rate your confidence performing a laparoscopic hysterectomy (minimal to no adhesions, small uterus)		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	6.0 (3.0, 6.0)	
I feel confident seeking feedback during/after a laparoscopic hysterectomy (minimal to no adhesions, small uterus) to improve my performance as a resident		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	8.0 (6.0, 9.0)	
I feel confident communicating with my attending during a laparoscopic hysterectomy (minimal to no adhesions, small uterus)		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	8.0 (6.0, 9.0)	
Rate your confidence performing a tumor debulking, exploratory laparotomy, total abdominal hysterectomy		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	2.0 (1.0, 3.0)	
I feel confident seeking feedback during/after a tumor debulking, exploratory laparotomy, total abdominal hysterectomy to improve my performance as a resident		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	5.0 (3.0, 8.0)	
I feel confident communicating with my attending during a tumor debulking, exploratory laparotomy, total abdominal hysterectomy		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	4.5 (3.0, 7.0)	
Read about the surgery?, n (%)		
No	2 (11.1%)	
Yes	16 (88.9%)	
Read about the patient?, n (%)		
Yes	18 (100.0%)	
Watch a video about the procedure?, n (%)		
No	4 (22.2%)	
Yes	14 (77.8%)	
Participate in case discussions with attendings or residents? (i.e., case conference), n (%)		
No	5 (27.8%)	
Yes	13 (72.2%)	
Set a formal goal for the surgery pre-operatively and discuss this goal with your attending?, n (%)		
No	16 (88.9%)	
Yes	2 (11.1%)	
Rate your confidence performing a hysteroscopy dilation and curettage		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	9.0 (5.0, 9.0)	
I feel confident seeking feedback during/after a hysteroscopy dilation and curettage to improve my performance as a resident		
Missing	0	
Median (IQR)	9.0 (7.0, 10.0)	

Results

For low-complexity surgeries, residents reported high median confidence levels: 9/10 for performing (IQR 5, 9), seeking feedback (IQR 7, 10), and communicating with the attending physician (IQR 7, 10).

For medium-complexity surgeries, confidence decreased, with median scores of 6/10 for performing the surgery (IQR 3, 6) and 8/10 for both seeking feedback and communication (IQR 6, 9).

Confidence levels were lowest for high complexity surgeries, with median scores of 2/10 for performing (IQR 1, 3), 5/10 for seeking feedback (IQR 3, 8), and 4.5/10 for communication (IQR 3, 7).

Conclusion

Increased complexity in gynecologic surgeries can diminish residents’ confidence in performing procedures, seeking feedback, and communicating with attending physicians, potentially affecting professional growth and patient safety.

A formal curriculum centered on case debriefing and feedback after complex surgeries may enhance residents' confidence and improve care quality.

References & Acknowledgements

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