

Medical students' perceptions on attending Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) placements during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr Manju Netto⁽¹⁾, Dr Helen Ye⁽²⁾, Miss Akila Karthikeyan⁽³⁾

(1) ST5 O&G trainee, North Middlesex Hospital, Sterling Way, N18 1QX

(2) ST1 O&G trainee, North Middlesex Hospital, Sterling Way, N18 1QX

(3) Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, North Middlesex Hospital, Sterling Way, N18 1QX

BACKGROUND

Medical students on clinical placements may not always be considered as front line staff. This poses the risk of providing inadequate training on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). They may also not receive the same debrief opportunities, which may have consequences on psychological well-being and training.

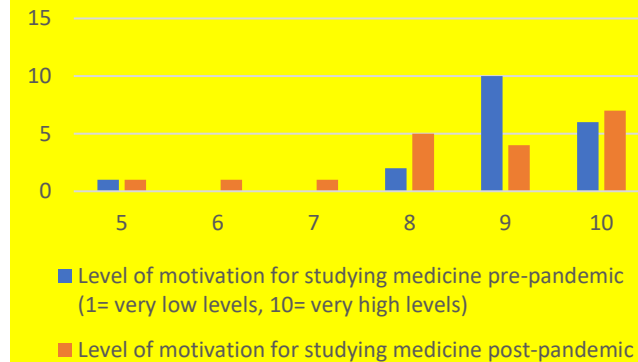
RESULTS

60% students felt it was appropriate to **return to clinical placements**. Only 25% reported concerns in attending clinical placements. 77% reported they experienced concerns 1-4 times, 16% had concerns 5-10 times, and 5% had concerns 11-14 times per month. **Causes for concern** included: becoming infected with COVID-19, transmission to family members, delay in career progression, logistical issues within the placement and unintentionally wearing inadequate PPE. 63% reported no change in their **motivation**, 26% reported decreased motivation and the remaining 10% reported increased motivation for studying Medicine since the pandemic. 100% of students found the teaching session useful with reasons including valuing **teaching on PPE** and having a safe space to voice concerns.

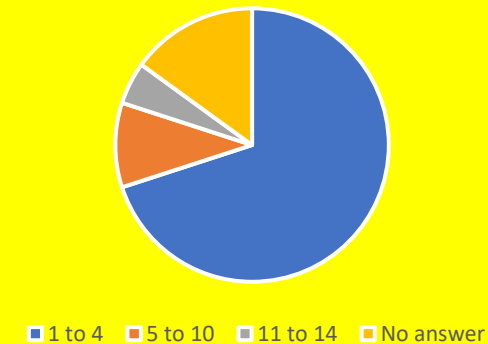
METHODS

A prospective qualitative study using data from questionnaires over 6 months. Information gathered from 21 students was triangulated using a focus group to further explore specific themes. Inductive thematic analysis was used to identify common themes and conclusions. A teaching session on PPE including "donning and doffing" was delivered and participants were invited to fill a post-session questionnaire.

Medical students' level of motivation since the COVID-19 pandemic



Frequency of concerns re: COVID-19 per month



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Most students wanted to attend clinical placements in person. This study has highlighted the importance of good teaching on PPE which has the potential to be forgotten if students are not considered part of the workforce.

Dedicated teaching on the effects of COVID-19 on the health service can provide an opportunity to voice concerns.

Data collection is ongoing and there is potential to obtain results that are relevant and generalisable to medical students in other departments.