Survey of General Surgery Resident Experience with Robotic Surgery and Curricula

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BACKGROUND

- Robotic surgery has become increasingly utilized in general surgery
- There are no formal training or case number requirements for residents
- Residency programs have been developing their own curriculum

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Assess general surgery residents' perceptions regarding the use of robotics
- Identify components of and barriers to successful implementation of a robotics curriculum

METHODS

- 25-question survey regarding robotics training
  - Questions focused on career plans, specific components of robotic surgery curricula at their institution, perceived utility of curricular components, and assessment of existing robotic training and clinical exposure
- Distributed to a convenience sample of general surgery residents at 16 programs across the United States
  - Programs identified through contacts of the Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) through the Association of Surgical Education
- March – May 2020

RESULTS

- 138 general surgery residents from 15 states (35% response rate)

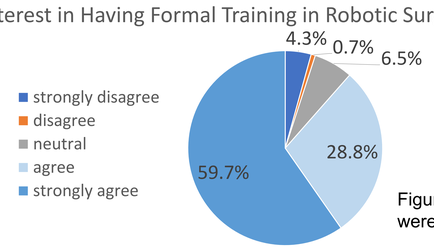


Figure 1: Residents were asked how interested they were in formal robotic surgery training

Most residents plan to incorporate robotics into their career and the vast majority want formalized training. However, only 59% of residency programs have required curriculum for robotic surgery.

There are currently no national requirements for robotic surgery curricula.

It may be beneficial to develop standardized or required robotic curricula.

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RESULTS

- 54% female, median age: 30 years (IQR: 29-32)
- 92% from university-based programs
- 62% of residents plan to integrate robotic surgery into their careers
- 59% of residents have required curriculum
- 31% optional curriculum
- 4% no curriculum

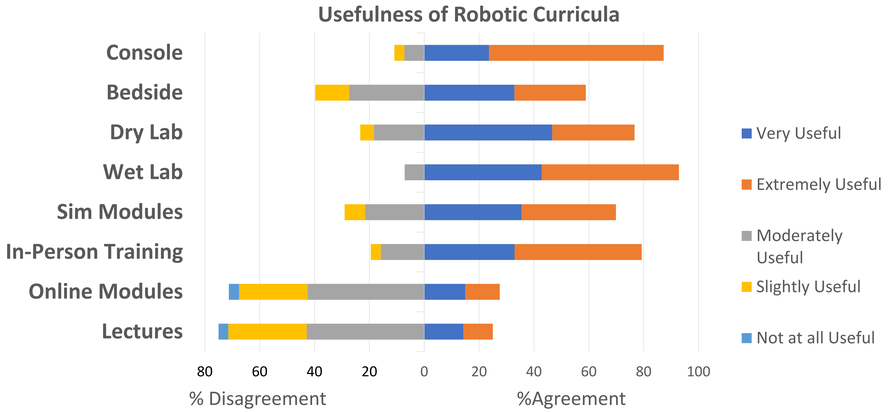


Figure 2: Residents were asked to rate the usefulness of aspects of their robotic curriculum

BARRIERS TO CLINICAL EDUCATION IN ROBOTIC SURGERY

- 55% complexity of case
- 53% attending inexperience
- 52% faculty limiting trainee autonomy
- 45% limited number of services using robotic surgery
- 44% limited number of first assists

LIMITATIONS

- Response rate 35%
- Convenience sample
- Data from 2020, landscape is changing fast