Emerging Trend of Female Surgical Trainees in Qatar: A Timeline of Pioneering Progress and Diversity

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INTRODUCTION

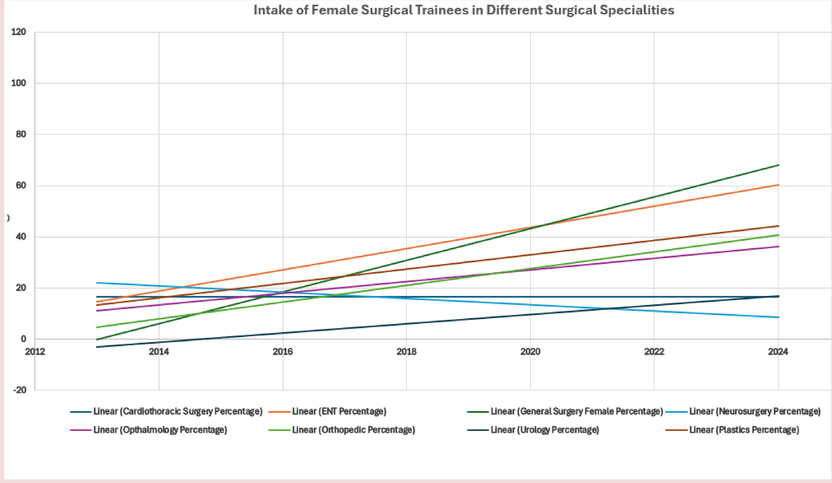
In recent years, Qatar's Graduate Medical Education (GME) program has gained significant recognition globally for its rapid progress and development. With its state-of-the-art teaching hospitals, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) offers a high-quality training environment in the Middle East, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International (ACGME-I) since 2013. Historically, surgical specialties in the region have been predominantly male-dominated due to cultural norms, selection biases, and a lack of female mentorship and leadership opportunities. However, the landscape is gradually shifting, with more women entering the field. This study aims to analyze the trends in the percentage of female surgical trainees at HMC from 2013 to 2024. The research seeks to identify patterns of change in female participation and explore the factors that may have contributed to increasing representation during this period.

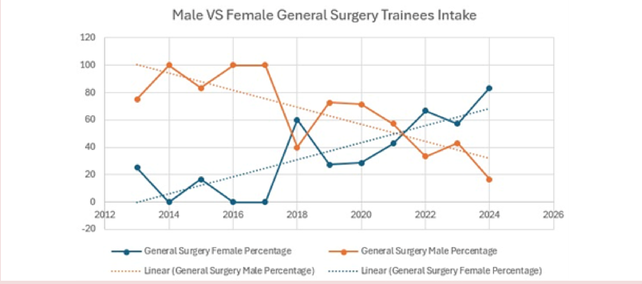
METHODS

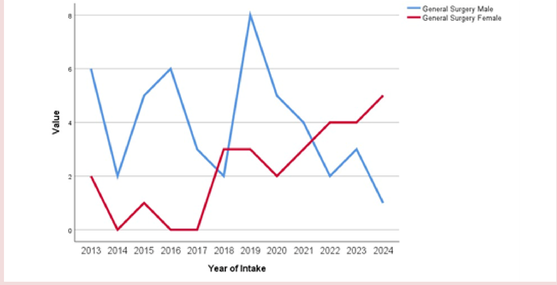
A retrospective review of demographic records was conducted to analyze the intake of female trainees in surgical specialties from 2013 to 2024. The researchers used linear regression to identify any trends in the increase in the percentage of female trainees selected each year. Additionally, the study examined the intake trend in different surgical specialties and the overall percentage of female trainees.

RESULTS

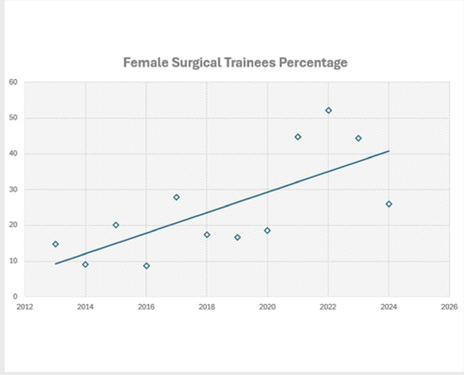
In 2013, female trainees made up 14.7% (5 out of 34) of the total intake. This percentage varied over the years, reaching a peak of 52.17% (12 out of 23) in 2022 and then stabilizing at 25.92% (7 out of 27) in 2024. When we performed a linear regression analysis on the data, plotting the percentage of female trainees against the year of intake, we found a slope (B) of 2.863 with a significance value (p) of 0.01 and a t-value of 3.172. These statistical results confirm a significant and consistent increase in the number of female surgical trainees from 2013 to 2024, which provides a strong basis for our research.







CONCLUSION



The data shows a significant increase in the percentage of female surgical trainees at Hamad Medical Corporation from 2013 to 2024. The percentage rose from 14.7% to over 50%, with the most notable increase in General Surgery from 25% in 2013 to 83.33% in 2024. This trend indicates a shift towards gender diversity in Qatar's surgical field, reflecting efforts to promote inclusivity in a traditionally male-dominated profession. These findings demonstrate Qatar's progress in creating a more diverse and equitable surgical workforce, setting a positive example for the region. Moving forward, sustainable policies for mentorship, inclusivity and leadership must be prioritized to maintain this progress. Continued research and institutional commitments will be essential in fostering a more equitable surgical training environment.

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