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PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHETIC TRAINING - VARIATION WITHIN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

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Introduction and Aims

The 2010 Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) Curriculum states that a minimum period of one month during Intermediate training (1) and a minimum of 4 weeks must be undertaken in the higher years of training (2). Both ideally should be completed as a block (1,2). Advanced training should be delivered in a specialist centre for either 6 or 12 months (3).

This survey aimed to establish what the current practice was within England, Scotland and Wales and what if any variation existed.

Method

A survey was sent (and re-sent if no reply or alternative contact was provided) electronically to the Trainee Programme Directors (TPDs) of the 27 Anaesthetic schools according to the RCOA. Twenty-five responses covering 21 Anaesthetic schools were received (77.7% response rate) with some duplication (25 responses in total).

Results

Intermediate training is carried out as only a module in 15 Anaesthetic schools, 3 Anaesthetic schools' trainees complete the training throughout Intermediate training. The Intermediate training is completed over 1-3 months when as a module. It is completed at a range of hospitals including Tertiary centres, Paediatric Anaesthesia Departments (within a larger Anaesthesia department) and District General Hospitals (DGHs).

Higher training is carried out exclusively as a module in 17 Anaesthetic schools; within 2 Anaesthetic schools the training is completed throughout Higher training. The Higher training is completed in 1-6 months depending on the anaesthetic school. Again, training takes place at Tertiary centres, Paediatric Anaesthesia departments and DGHs. In a maximum of 9 Anaesthetic Schools trainees undertake Paediatric Anaesthesia on calls, within 12 Anaesthetic schools the trainees may encounter paediatric patients as part of the on call.

All Schools offered a minimum of 6 months in Advanced training with 10 offering 12 months. Six Schools do not have competitive entry into Advanced Paediatric training with 4 (possibly 5) always having competitive entry. The remaining Schools vary entry depending on interest.

Discussion and Conclusion

This Snapshot survey shows that there is great variation across England, Scotland and Wales with regards the training of Anaesthetist in Paediatric Anaesthesia at the Intermediate, Higher and Advanced level. The variations are within duration and exposure to Paediatric Anaesthesia. Those undertaking Higher training may not undertake specific Paediatric Anaesthesia on calls.

By highlighting the differences, it is hoped that by presenting this to Association of Paediatric Anaesthetist of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI) and RCOA there can be increased standardisation in the exposure to Paediatric Anaesthesia during Anaesthetic training.

References:

- 1) RCOA. CCT in Anaesthetics. Annex C Intermediate Level Training. Edition .2 August 2010. Version 1.8 Available from: https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2019-08/TRG-CCT-ANNEXC_0.pdf [Accessed 2nd February 2020].
- 2) RCOA. CCT in Anaesthetics. Annex D Higher Level Training. Edition 2. August 2010. Version 1.8. Available from: <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2019-08/TRG-CCT-ANNEXD.pdf> [Accessed 2nd February 2020].
- 3) RCOA. CCT in Anaesthetics. Annex E Advanced Level Training. Edition 2. August 2010. Version 1.8. Available from: <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2019-08/TRG-CCT-ANNEXE.pdf> [Accessed 2nd February 2020].