

Awareness About Oral And Maxillofacial Surgery Speciality Among Dental Compulsory Rotatory Residential Interns In Chennai, India

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ABSTRACT

Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) is a unique dental speciality that brings together all other dental specialities and medicine. The role of an oral surgeon extends beyond performing exodontia. This fact is not aware by many especially the dental Compulsory Rotatory Residential Interns (CRRI) who are the future. This study focuses on the knowledge and awareness about Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery speciality among dental compulsory rotatory residential interns. A cross-sectional study was performed using questionnaire. There was considerable variability amongst the interns in their exposure and/or previous experience in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Therefore, awareness and management of the patient is a liability.

KEYWORDS: Oral and maxillofacial surgery, Compulsory Rotatory Residential Interns.

INTRODUCTION

Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) is a dental specialty, which can be considered to be a borderline between medicine and dentistry ^{1,2}. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are involved in the management of dentoalveolar surgeries and facial fractures, treatment for patients with craniofacial injuries, salivary gland diseases, and temporomandibular joint ³. Little is known regarding the perception of oral and maxillofacial surgery speciality among dental compulsory rotatory residential interns who are the future graduates ⁴. The main objective of this study was to assess the knowledge and awareness of oral and maxillofacial surgery speciality among dental compulsory rotatory residential interns.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study was performed among dental compulsory rotatory residential interns in Chennai. A questionnaire (Table 1) was designed that comprised of seven questions pertaining to the awareness of the speciality Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the perception about the procedures performed in the above speciality. The questionnaire was then distributed among 100 dental compulsory rotatory residential interns in Chennai. Respondent were asked to indicate either one of the following options- Yes/ No/ I don't know. The results were collected and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study was done between January 2020 to September 2020.

TABLE I

QUESTIONNAIRE

AWARNESS ABOUT ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY SPECIALITY AMONG DENTAL COMPULSORY ROTATORY RESIDENTIAL INTERNS

QUESTION	YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW
1.Do you have interest in oral and maxillofacial surgery?			
2. Will you take up Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a speciality?			
3.Do u think that Oral and Maxillofacial minor surgical procedures are easy to perform?			
4. With proper training and exposure, is it possible to perform all or most minor surgical procedures with confidence?			
5.In case of medical emergencies, is it possible for you to handle it on your own?			
6.Do you think that impaction and exodontia are the most commonly performed minor surgical procedures?			

7. Do you feel that your current level of experience in minor surgical procedures is satisfactory?			
8. Are you confident in administering maxillary and mandibular nerve blocks on completion of CRRI training at OMFS?			
9. Do you think you are competent enough to remove fractured roots during internship?			

RESULTS

Demographics

The gender distribution was 45% (45) male and 55% (55) female among the respondents.

Attitude of OMFS as a career pathway

Among the 100 respondents, 35% were interested in pursuing Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a post graduate speciality, 23% showed no interest while 42% of the interns were unsure (Figure 1).

Understanding and awareness of the specialty

When asked about the perception of minor surgical procedures, 36% responded that they were easy to perform, 41% did not agree that the procedures were easy to carry out, the rest 23% did not know.

With proper training and exposure, 69% of the interns agreed that it is possible to perform all or most minor surgical procedures with confidence, 13% did not agree, 18% of the interns did not know if training could improve performing minor oral surgical procedures with confidence(Figure 2).

In case of medical emergencies, only 12% of the interns agreed that it was possible for them to handle management of the emergency on

their own, a majority of 74% did not agree while the rest 14% of the interns did not know if they could handle the management of medical emergencies on their own (Figure 3).

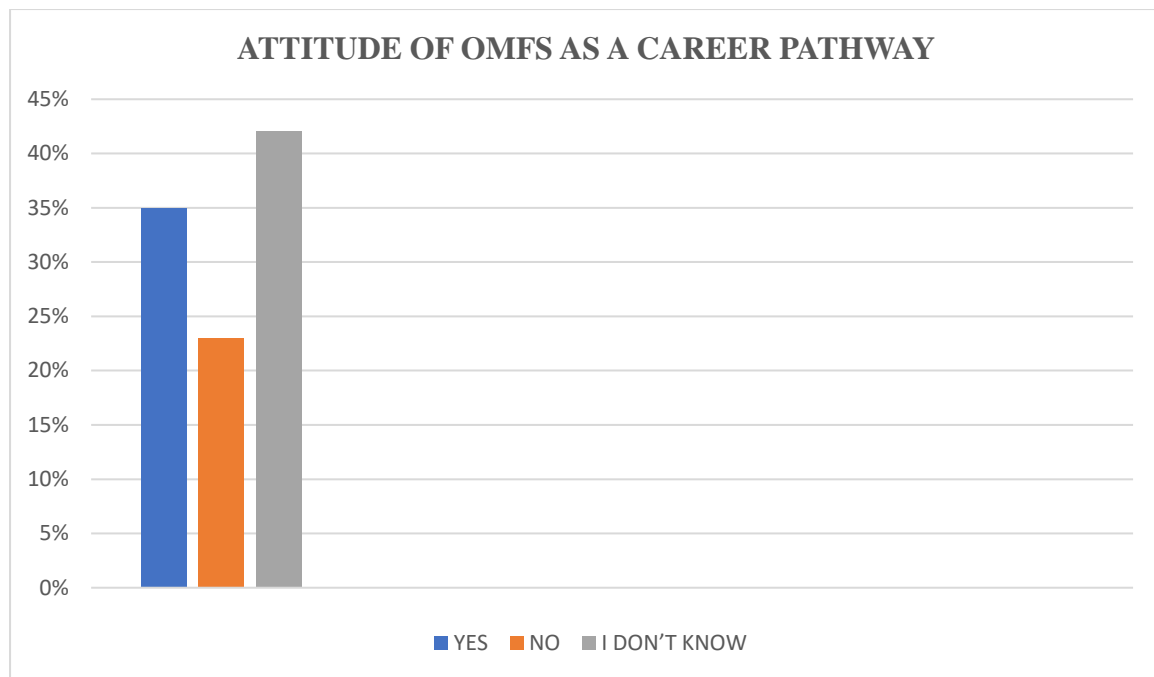
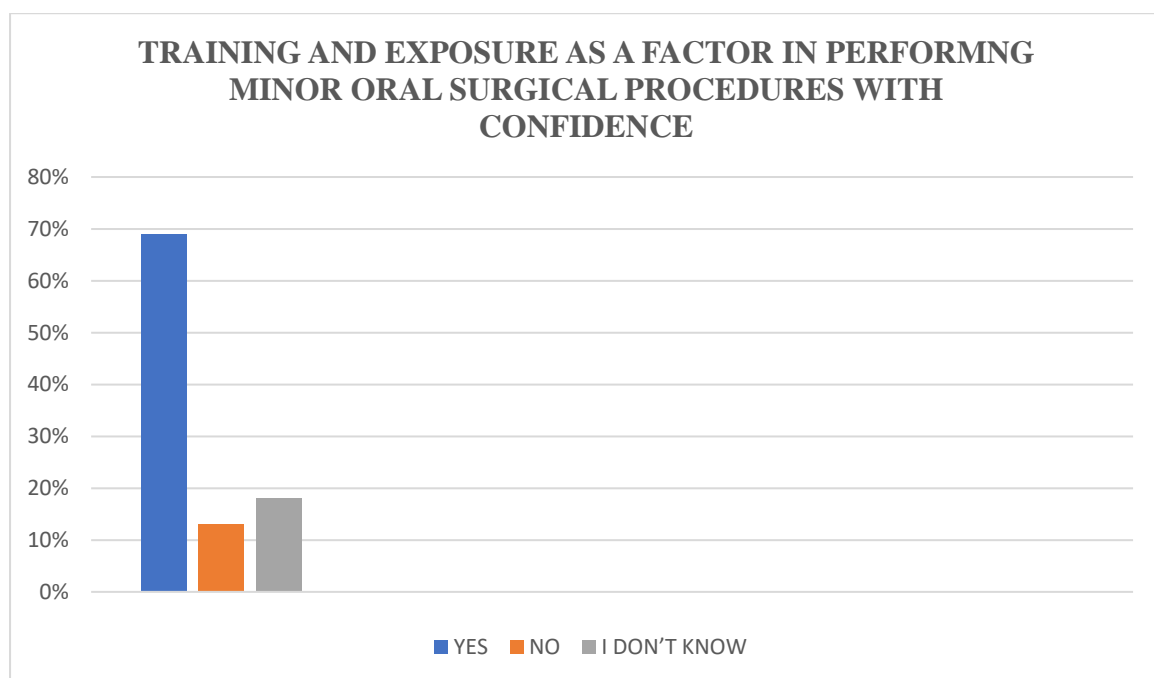
71% of the interns thought that impaction and exodontia were the most commonly performed minor surgical procedures, 24% did not agree, while the remaining 5 % of the interns didn't not know.

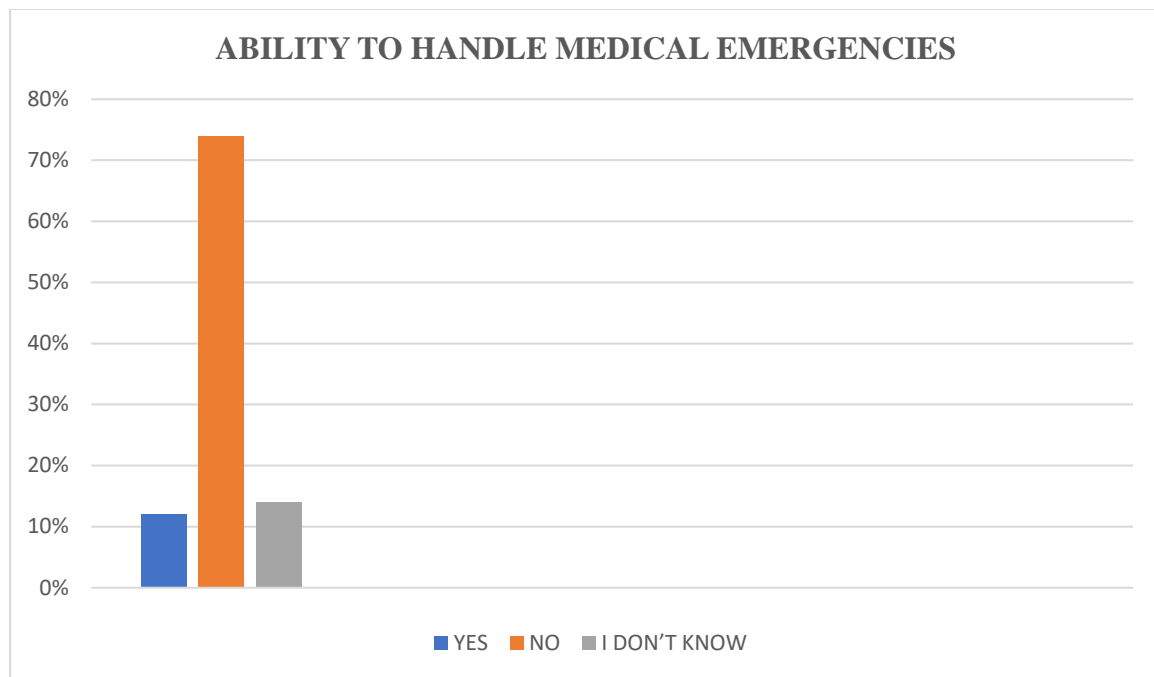
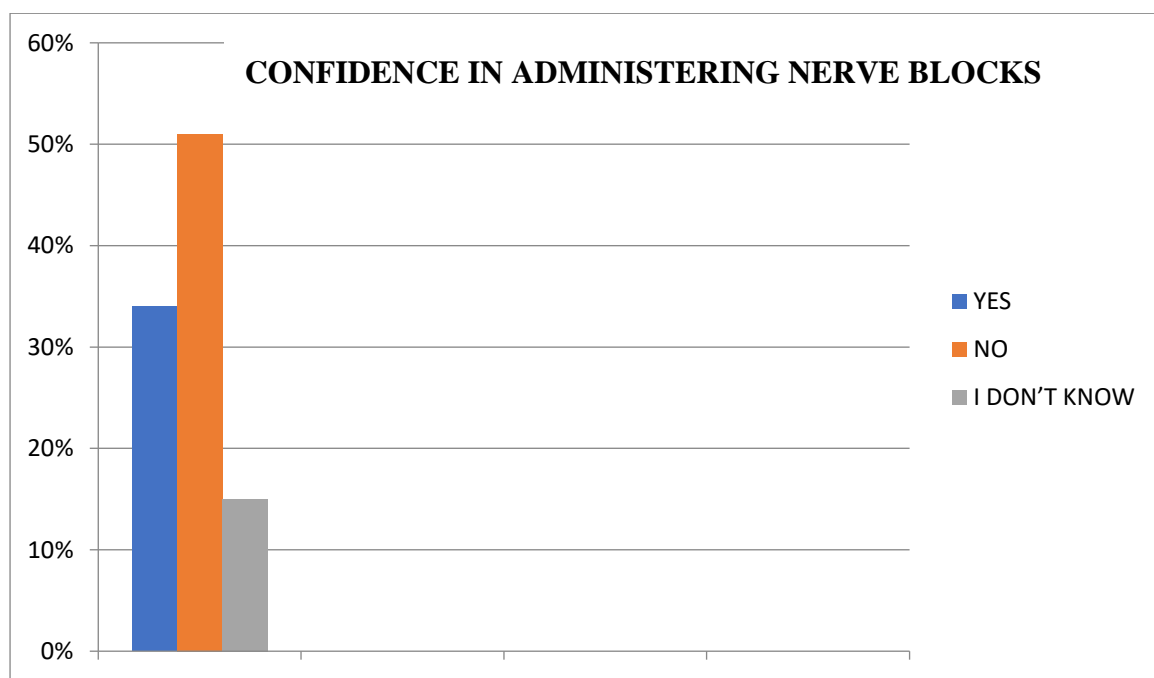
Satisfaction in their current level of experience in minor surgical procedures was agreed by only 16% of the interns, majority, 81%, experienced lack of experience while 3% did not know whether their current level of experience in minor surgical procedure was satisfactory.

Only 34% of the interns were confident in administering maxillary and mandibular nerve blocks on completion of CRRI training at OMFS, 51% were not confident while the remaining 15% did not know(Figure 4).

21% of the dental compulsory rotatory residential interns felt that they were competent enough to remove fractured roots during internship, a majority 72% of the interns felt that were incompetent while the rest 7% did not have an opinion.

FIGURE I

**FIGURE 2****FIGURE 3**

**FIGURE 4**

DISCUSSION

There was considerable variability amongst the interns in their exposure and/or previous experience in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This could be a reason why a majority of the sample population were unsure of their career pathway in the speciality. Local differences in hospital services appeared to influence student's perceptions of the role of an Oral and

Maxillofacial Surgeon. Most of the dental compulsory rotatory residential interns thought that impaction and exodontia were the most commonly performed minor surgical procedures. The majority of students felt that they were incapable in handling medical emergencies on their own. However, a majority felt that with proper training and clinical exposure, they could perform oral minor surgeries better. A limitation of this study is the

interviewer bias that could have affected the interviewee's answers. Convenience sampling is also a limitation to this study. The data for the purpose of the study was collected from respondents in Chennai only.

CONCLUSION

While Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a career pathway remains unclear to most, those with greater exposure have an increased recognition of the scope of OMFS. Awareness of the scope of OMFS can lead to improved access and have better knowledge on patient's management.

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