

Exposure to clinical urology in junior medical years – a survey of interns and final year medical students

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Objectives

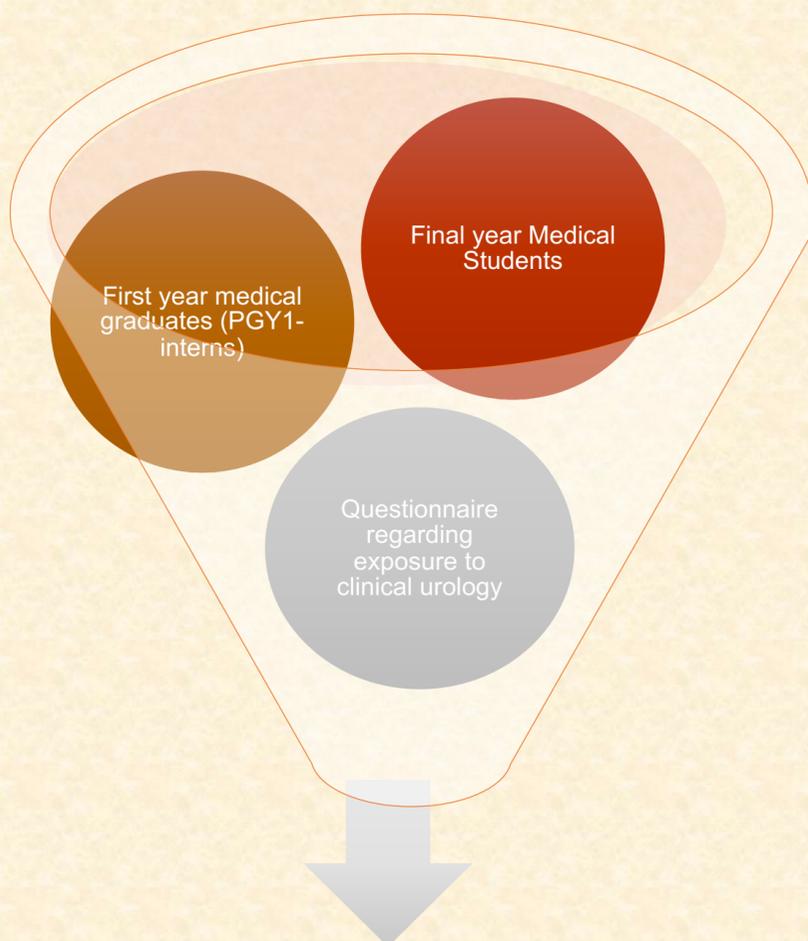
1. Define exposure to clinical urology amongst medical students.
2. Identify areas of difficulty for junior doctors and medical students.
3. Identify exposure to urological conditions amongst junior doctors.

Introduction

Within Australia, there is a clear lack of exposure to clinical urology amongst medical students. We surveyed a group of final year medical students and corresponding intern medical doctors to assess if the lack of exposure as medical students correlates with a lack of confidence in the management of urological conditions clinically.

Methods

4th year medical students across two universities in the Gold Coast were invited to participate in the survey. Intern medical officers that were undertaking a compulsory emergency department rotation were also invited to participate in the survey.



173 responses

- 70 intern medical officers
- 103 medical students



Results

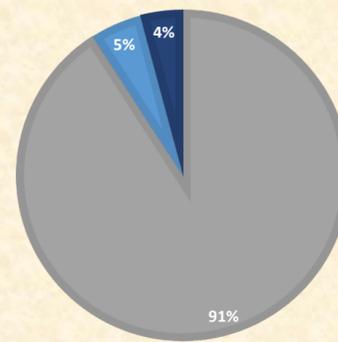
173 total survey responses were received. 103 survey results were received from final year medical students whereas 70 intern medical officers returned a response. 90% of responded medical students had less than 1 week of exposure to urology within their medical student rotations.

In terms of the intern respondents, 20% had less than a week of exposure to urology in medical school and their intern year to date. 58% of interns surveyed felt confident in managing emergency urological presentations whereas 32% of medical students felt confident in managing urological emergencies.

Areas of least confidence was in the management of difficult catheter placement and clot retention. Areas of most confidence was in the management of pyelonephritis and ureteric calculi.

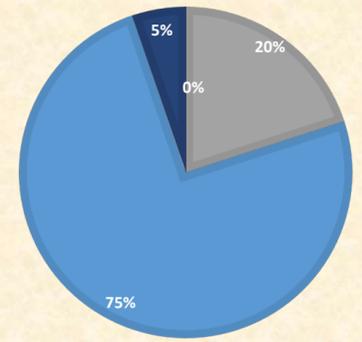
Medical Students

■ Nil exposure ■ <1 week ■ Between 1-4 weeks ■ Between 4-8 weeks

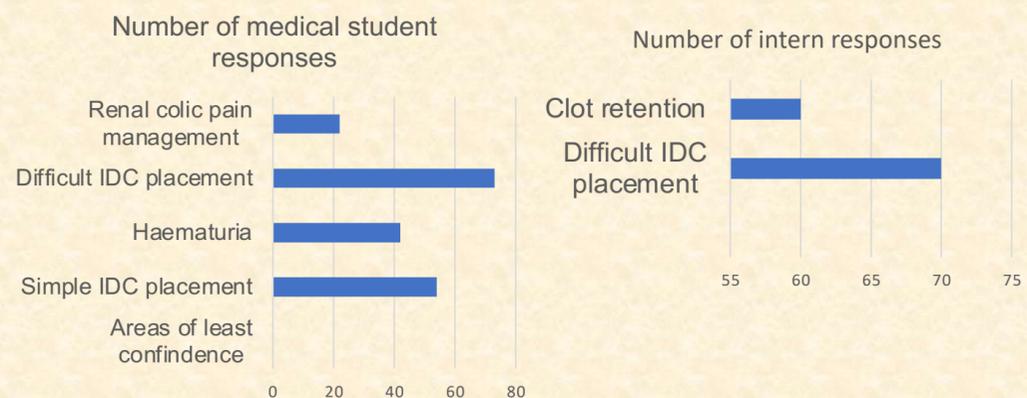


Graduate interns

■ Nil exposure ■ <1 week ■ Between 1-4 weeks ■ 4-8 weeks



Areas of least confidence

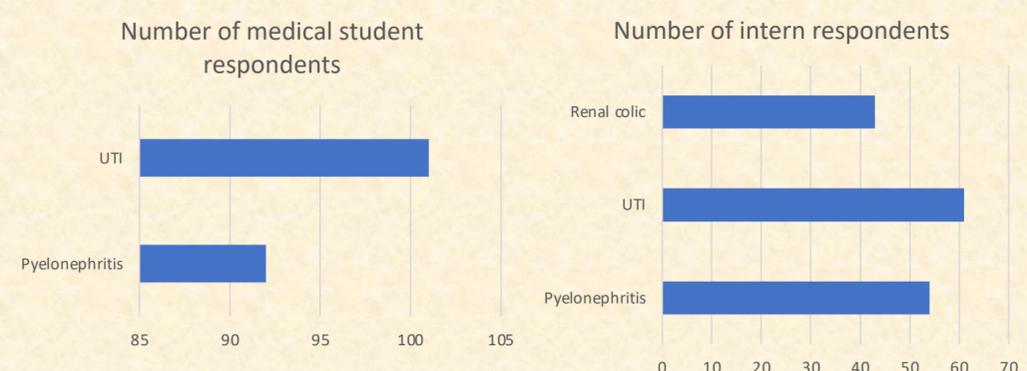


Confidence in management of urological emergencies

32% of medical students

58% of interns

Areas of most confidence



Conclusions

Our cohort of survey respondents have demonstrated that there is a clear lack of urology exposure within the Australian medical school curriculum. It appears more there is a lack of confidence in predominantly practical skills.