

## **EP04.05**

### **Feedback and assessment of GP trainees' suturing skills in a Dublin general practice training programme**

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**Background:** Ability to suture is a requirement on the curriculum for general practice training in Ireland, yet it does not form part of the MICGP examination.

Traditionally GP trainees acquired basic surgical skills (including suturing) during their preliminary hospital exposure. However, with restructuring of clinical services, minor cases requiring suturing are being diverted away from the trainee.

**Methods:** This project evaluated three things:

- A quantitative and qualitative measure of GP trainee acceptance of the suturing workshop using an anonymous online questionnaire.
- Qualitative feedback of the suturing workshop using focus groups.
- Suturing assessment of the GP trainee before, during and six to eight weeks after the workshop using an objective scoring system (OSATS).

GP Trainees from Trinity College Dublin were invited to attend a surgical skills workshop as part of their weekly day release training. Their suturing technique was assessed using an Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATS) score.

OSATS is an objective measure that is both reliable and valid and in this circumstance was used to assess the GP trainee's suturing skill.

**Results:** 41 GP trainees were assessed on their suturing skill initially and immediately after a suturing workshop. 30 of the initial 41 were re assessed six to eight weeks subsequently. Immediately after the suturing workshop there was overall a 39% improvement in the trainee's OSATS score. When the trainee was re assessed six to eight weeks later there was a further improvement of 4% in OSATS score overall. There was a 22% improvement in the trainees confidence after one suturing workshop. 98% of the participating GP trainees felt that suturing is a basic requirement in General Practice. 51% of trainees stated that lack of training was the main reason why GP trainees do not suture.

**Conclusion:** A suturing workshop improves a GP Trainees suturing skill and confidence.