

PS2.179

De-mystifying the vaginal examination. Experiences and attitudes of medical students towards learning and performing vaginal examinations

Pushpa Nair(1), S Burman-Roy(1), S Radhakrishnan(2)

(1) GP Training Scheme, Royal Free Hospital/University College London, London, UK

(2) Community Gynaecology, Royal Free Hospital, London, UK

Corresponding author: Dr Pushpa Nair, Royal Free Hospital, General Practice, London, UK. E-mail: pushpa.nair@nhs.net

Background and Aims: Vaginal examinations are an important skill to be comfortable with performing in primary care/family medicine, both for the experience of future doctors and patients. Our project aims include:

- a. To explore the attitudes of medical students towards vaginal examinations and gain an insight into their first experiences of performing this intimate examination.
- b. To gauge an idea of the socio-ethnic/gender background of medical students and consider whether this may have an impact on their experiences and attitudes towards performing vaginal examinations.
- c. To explore the role of Gynaecological Teaching Assistants (GTAs) in medical education, and how the teaching of vaginal examinations can be improved in medical schools

Method: Questionnaire based survey (19 Question Survey Monkey) sent to 5th Year University College London medical students currently on or having completed their Obstetrics & Gynaecology Module Block 2015-2016 (estimate 50-75 respondents)

Results: Questionnaires have been sent out and we are currently in the process of collating and analysing results

Conclusions: We hope that the results from the survey will help identify key themes that might be influential in shaping medical students' attitudes and experiences of learning and performing vaginal examinations. We feel that these insights might help suggest possible improvements in the way in which vaginal examinations are currently taught in medical schools.