



“A STUDY OF KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONG GENERAL PHYSICIANS REGARDING PLASTIC SURGERY”

Plastic Surgery

Dr. Shrikant Perka Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plastic surgery, GMC, Nagpur.

Dr. Pranay Gandhi* Assistant Professor, Dept. of Community medicine, GMC, Chandrapur. *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to understand the level of knowledge and awareness of plastic surgery among General Physicians in central India.

Materials and methods: This is a cross-sectional study conducted from January 2019 to December 2019 among private general practitioners in a district in Central India. Overall, 100 general practitioners were recruited using simple random sampling. Filling the questionnaire was considered as approval to join the study. The study included general practitioners of allopathy and ayurveda.

Results: In total, 100 physicians were enrolled in this study. Physicians considered that out of 28 listed disorders 16 of them have chosen a plastic surgeon as the best surgeon to perform the necessary surgery. The selection of plastic surgeon as the best doctor for a specific disorder was as follows: Burn deformities (75%), liposuction (87.7%), breast reduction/enhancement (78%), sex change (65%), deformities of leprosy (50%) followed by skin grating, liposuction etc.

Conclusion: General practitioners need more orientation for plastic surgery discipline.

KEYWORDS

Awareness, general physician.

INTRODUCTION:

The origin of the branch of plastic surgery goes back to many centuries. After charaka and sushruta developed the indian medicine and surgery, they also devised many techniques for restoration and rehabilitation of amputated limbs of patients. Many treatises were found later which also included much work dedicate to specially these aspects of surgery. Later all these came into play in the beautiful branch of plastic surgery. Electric burn injuries also form an important part of the management component by plastic surgeons worldwide.

Many people often confuse plastic surgeon to cosmetic surgeon, which may guide to misconception in between medical practitioners and the general public. Medical students gained enough fundamentals on this subject during their education at school. Hence, this may influence their capability of knowing the appropriate circumstance to direct patients to plastic surgeons.(1)

Plastic surgeons who directly performed surgery on physical abnormalities such as congenital defects, post-traumatic deformities and skin infections, and benign and malignant tumor. General physicians are the person who furnishes the group with essential well-being administrations; so, they are considered as the guide of patients to the next level of care. Hence, general physicians need the information of when to direct patients to the right specialty to obtain the best possible procedures and treatment.

General physicians should be able to distinguish the differences among cosmetic, aesthetic, and medical symptoms to persuade broader approach in reconstructive treatment. Nevertheless, in a cluster of cases an obvious dissection with these implications is challenging and yet impractical. A commonly sensed of concern with respect to complicated referrals that lone portion of the patients underwent in reconstructive procedure are alluded to by the attending physician.[2]

Despite advanced progression in the field of plastic surgery, it appears that medical practitioners and the community do not have enough knowledge or accurate information about the continuum of plastic surgery.

The aim of this study is to measure the level of knowledge and awareness of plastic surgery among General physicians in a district in Central India.

METHODOLOGY

This was a cross-sectional study conducted from January 2019 to December 2019 among General physicians in a district in Central India. BAMS and MD in BAMS, MBBS and MD or diploma post MBBS practising as GP were approached for the study. Filling the questionnaire was considered as approval to join the study.

After collection and validation, data were entered and analyzed through statistical software SPSS Ver. 20. Both descriptive and analytic statistics had been conducted. The *P* value of ≤ 0.05 had been set as the significance level for all statistical tests.

RESULTS:

A total of 100 General physicians in a district in Central India participated in this study. Of them, 40 were BAMS and MD in BAMS while 60 were MBBS and above. The mean age of all participants was 40.5 ± 10.2 . Among the participants, 52 (52%) were males, while 48 (48%) were females. The mean years of practice were 12.1 ± 4.5 .

Tables:

Table 1 showing the demographic characteristics of study participants

Characteristics	Number
General Practitioner:	
1. other than MBBS i.e. BAMS and their MD.	40
2. MBBS and above	60
Age in years	40.5 ± 10.2
≤40 years old	60
>40 years old	40
Gender:	
Male	52
Female	48
Years of practice	12.1 ± 4.5
≤10	52
>10	48

The awareness and knowledge toward plastic Surgeon, and the results had been presented as numbers and percentages for all categorical variables of 100 participants who were enrolled in this study.

Table 2 showing the frequency distribution on which surgeon would you expect to treat the following conditions (n=100)

	General surgeon	Ortho surgeon	Neuro surgeon	ENT surgeon	Skin specialist	Plastic surgeon
Breast reduction or enhancement	15	0	2	0	5	78
Burn deformities	15	10	0	4	6	75
Skin grafting	10	20	10	0	20	40
Liposuction	5	5	10	0	50	30
Botox	5	0	5	0	80	10
Leprosy deformities	15	20	10	5	0	50

Hair transplantation	0	0	5	5	40	50
Cleft lip cleft palate	5	0	10	70	5	10
Sex change surgery	5	5	20	0	5	65
Amputated thumb, finger or hand	5	60	5	0	0	30

Table 3 shows the frequency distribution on which surgeon would you expect to treat the following conditions. The results had been presented as numbers and percentages for all categorical variables of 100 participants who were voluntarily enrolled in this study. Results had been sorted in a descending order by plastic surgery. Highlighted texts were the highest number of participants' who had chosen their specific surgeon per each listed disorder.

Table 3: Knowledge of study physicians toward plastic surgery [n=100].:

Questions determining knowledge	Results
What is the training required to be a plastic surgeon?	
1. 3 years training in GS after M.B.B.S followed by 3 years training in plastic surgery	60
2. 6 years training after M.B.B.S	12
3. Both of the above	20
4. Do not know	8
Why do you think plastic surgery is called "Plastic" surgery?	
1. It involves use of Plastic in surgery	8
2. After surgery the face looks shiny like plastic	10
3. Do not know	50
4. Other reason	32
Do you think that plastic surgery is a very expensive affair and meant for rich and famous?	
1. Yes	50
2. No	45
3. Do not know	5

DISCUSSION:

Plastic surgery as a superspecialisation branch has become increasingly popular and glamorous thanks to the movie celebrities opting for hair transplants, nose jobs, breast and butt augmentations and lip fillers and botox etc. Such terms have in return made plastic surgery as a branch more popular than ever before. In the last few years, we have seen the utilization of plastic surgery increasingly more often in line with the non-stop advancement of society. Individuals' well-being increasingly depends on the engaging appeal of their physical appearance, according to the different paradigms enforced by society.

Apart from treating many deformities and amputations and extremely fine sutures for regular surgeries, plastic surgery also encompasses aesthetic and cosmetic aspect which is now in vogue. Augmentation and attenuation of body parts and shaping and sculpturing them has become a commercially successful way for earning among plastic surgeons especially in glamorous industry worldwide. So be it burn surgery, cleft lip, cleft palate, vascular surgery, amputations or on the other polar end be it hair transplant or liposuction or breast or butt augmentation or shaping nose and lips, plastic surgeons have been leading the way encasing vanity of the rich and the famous along with helping the poor and the needy too.

Annual Global Aesthetic Survey in 2016 published results that, there was 9% overall increase in surgical and non-surgical procedures as conducted by the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.[3] In our study, majority had chosen plastic surgeon. This finding is similar to the study done by de Blacam *et al.*[4] Their result shows 9 (60.0%) out of the 15 listed disorders considered a plastic surgeon most likely to perform necessary constructive surgery. Although their only listed 15 disorders, however, this study was in congruent to our study findings where plastic surgeon was the top choice to do several reconstructive surgery or plastic surgery to improve physical appearance of humans' body. Our study shows 54% of the participants do not know how to define "plastic surgery" correctly, which is alarming finding considering that the study population were general physicians. In another study published by Al Doheyan *et al.*,[5] they

surveyed 385 medical students at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia regarding "Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Concerning Cosmetic Surgery among Female Medical Students at the University Hospital." Although this study used web-based questionnaire, they found that 196 (51.4%) of the medical students had the correct knowledge on how to define plastic surgery. This study was also similar to our study findings. In addition, another study conducted by Otene *et al.*,[6] about "Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Cosmetic Surgery among Basic Science Students of a University in Delta State, Nigeria," the study included questions about bio-data, knowledge, attitude, and practice of cosmetic surgery. Overall, 166 respondents participated in the study. Their performances in the various sections assessing their knowledge, attitude, and practice of cosmetic surgery were scored. Their result shows 82 (49.4%) medical students can properly define cosmetic surgery, which was also supplemental evidence of our study.

In this study, the majority of the general physicians don't have enough knowledge about the plastic surgery.

REFERENCES:

1. Agarwal JP, Mendenhall SD, Hopkins PN. Medical student perceptions of plastic surgeons as hand surgery specialists. *Ann Plast Surg.* 2014;72:89–93.
2. Antoszewski B, Kardas P, Kasielska A, Fijalkowska M. Family physicians' perception of plastic surgery and its influence on referral. A survey from Poland. *Eur J Gen Pract.* 2012;18:22–5.
3. Panse N, Panse S, Kulkarni P, Dhongde R, Sahasrabudhe P. Awareness and perception of plastic surgery among healthcare professionals in Pune, India: Do they really know what we do? *Plast Surg Int.* 2012;2012:962169.
4. de Blacam C, Kilmartin D, Mc Dermott C, Kelly J. Public perception of plastic surgery. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg.* 2015;68:197–204.
5. Al Doheyan T, Al Saad A, Al Haidar A, Al Fwzan H, Al Askar J, Al Malki F, et al. Knowledge, attitude and practices concerning cosmetic surgery among female medical students at the university hospital, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. *Br J Med Med Res.* 2016;14:1–10.
6. Otene CI, Odonmeta AB, Ebeye OA, Enivwenae AO, Ozoko LE, Ebeigbe PN. Knowledge, attitude and practice of cosmetic surgery among basic science students of a university in Delta state, Nigeria. *IOSR J Dent Med Sci.* 2016;15:28–36.