Procedural Skills in General Practice
Vocational Training - what should be taught?
Research Team

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The ‘other’ question

What procedures can GP registrars expect to learn in the practice setting and what procedures need to be learnt in workshop or simulated environments?
Existing Lists

RACGP Essential Procedural Skills list
– based on a questionnaire survey 1990

ACRRM Skills Log Book
– derived from the curriculum

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (US)
– consensus by working group

College of Family Physicians of Canada
– survey using Delphi technique (n=14)
Study Aim

To establish a list of core procedural skills which all doctors undergoing vocational training for general practice in Australia should be taught.
The Plan

• Create a master list derived from all of the existing lists
• Rank the items in order of importance
• Determine a cut–off point
Our Research Definition

• Discrete activity performed on a patient
• Requires knowledge and psychomotor/manual skill
• Diagnostic or therapeutic
• May or may not require the use of equipment
• Invasive or non-invasive
Our Research Definition

• Excludes manual skills which are part of routine clinical examination
• Excludes purely interpretive skills
• Excludes management algorithms
• Excludes patient education
Our Research Definition

• Excludes very minor procedures that do not require formal training
• Excludes complex surgical procedures that require a general anesthetic
Body System: ENT

- Removal of foreign body from nose
- Ear toilet - dry mopping
- Epley Manoeuvre for benign positional vertigo
- Insertion of wick into external ear canal
- Removal of ear wax
- Quinsy incision and drainage
- Removal of foreign body from external auditory canal
- Indirect laryngoscopy
- Anterior nasal packing
- Audiogram
- Re-insertion of avulsed tooth
- Posterior nasal packing
- Ear toilet - microsuction
- Cautery for nasal bleeding
- Syringe external auditory canal
- Tympanogram
Method

Two round Delphi technique

• Group of experts
• Input is collated and de-identified
• Circulated for subsequent round
Characteristics of Delphi participants

n=31

Male 20
Practice location: Urban 18, Rural 11, Remote 2
Procedural 10
Medical Educator 7
GP Supervisor 17
Age <50 years 13
> 20 years in General Practice 16
Indigenous health expert 2
Trained overseas 3
The Question

Rate the importance of a GP registrar learning this procedure
The Question

Rate each individual procedure’s importance as a core attribute of an undifferentiated training program graduate....such an undifferentiated graduate is not expected to be procedurally equipped to deal with all general practice settings in Australia. They will however have had sufficient training to enable them to undergo, if necessary, further procedural training appropriate to the particular clinical setting they choose to work in.
Likert Scale

1. Not at all important
2. Of little importance
3. Moderately important
4. Very important
Results

31 participants completed round 1
6 extra items added to list = 191 items

List circulated for round 2 with, for each item
• individuals previous score
• mean panel score
• all comments

All 31 participants completed round 2
Analysis

191 items ranked by their round 2 mean score
Research team determined a cut off point of 2.66
Ranked list of 112 items above the cut off point
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syringe external auditory canal</td>
<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear toilet - dry mopping</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insertion of wick into external ear canal</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of ear wax</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of foreign body from external auditory canal</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of foreign body from nose</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior nasal packing</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epley Manoeuvre for benign positional vertigo</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-insertion of avulsed tooth</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posterior nasal packing</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear toilet - microsuction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cautery for nasal bleeding</td>
<td>2.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect laryngoscopy</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiogram</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tympanogram</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinsy incision and drainage</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

Up to date list
Core procedural skills
Ranked
Australian GP training context
Discussion

Resource to inform

- Curriculum development
- Learning
- Teaching
- Assessment
Further information

In press - Australian Family Physician
Supplementary material
gptvtc.com.au
Resources>Document library
Select category as ‘Research’
Questions

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