June 2024

Resident Perceptions of a Residents as Teachers Curriculum: A Qualitative Assessment

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Abstract
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This conference proceeding is available in Graduate Medical Education Research Journal: https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/gmerj/vol6/iss1/30
#22. Diabetes and Claudication: Reduced Pain Perception; Worse Walking Impairment and Quality of Life
Ali H. Hakim1,2, Yuqian Tian1,2, Matthew A. Fuglestada, Julian Kim1,2, Holly K. Despiegelaerab, Zhen Zhu1, Ray Mitchellf, Iraklis I. Pipinos1,2, Pooneh Bagher3
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2Department of Surgery and VA Research Service, Nebraska/Western Iowa, Omaha, NE, USA
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Mentor: Pooneh Bagher
Program: General Surgery
Type: Original Research
Background: The effects of diabetes in patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD) who present with claudication is poorly defined. We hypothesized that claudicating patients with diabetes would display worse characteristics including angiographic disease distribution, physiology of oxygen delivery, walking ability, at home physical activity (HPA), and quality of life (QoL) than patients without diabetes.

Methods: We recruited claudicating PAD patients and compared diabetics (N=15, Hba1c>6.5%) to non-diabetics (N=61). We reviewed baseline Ankle Brachial Indices (ABI), CT angiography (CTA), 6 minutes walking distance (6MWD), treadmill initial (ICD) and maximal (MCD) claudication walking distance with concurrent calf muscle oxygenation (STO2) measurements with near infrared spectroscopy, QoL questionnaires and HPA measured using pedometers.

Results: The diabetic group had higher Hba1c (31.1±6.8 vs 26.4±4.4, p<0.01), and hyperlipidemia (93% vs 72%, p<0.01). There were no differences in ABI, CTA, MCD and parameters of (STO2). Diabetic patients had longer initial claudication distances (ICD) (208.2±133.7 meters vs 124.0±94.5, p<0.02) and shorter pain recovery times (RT) (287.4±234.8 seconds vs 133.9±126, p<0.005). Diabetics had shorter 6MWD (252.3±62.3 meters vs 298.4±60.2, p<0.02), 50% (p<0.005) lower HPA, and worse measures of social functioning, emotional well-being, energy, and fatigue.

Conclusion: Diabetic PAD patients had unexpected longer ICDs, and shorter RTs suggesting significant alterations in the pain perception and pain pathways of the leg. They also had decreased performance on HPA and 6MWD with worse QoL measures suggesting that diabetes predisposes to worse walking outcomes and QoL in PAD. Identification and aggressive management of PAD should be given priority in diabetics as presenting symptoms may be milder despite worse outcomes and QoL.

#23. Length and Proximal Extent of Occlusion Dictates Severity of Disease in a Mini-Swine Model of Peripheral Artery Disease
Ali H. Hakim1,2, Yuqian Tian1,2, Al-Murtadha Al-Gahmi2,3, Sara Cartwright1, Jamal Salaymeh1,2, Zhen Zhu1, George P. Casale1, Iraklis I. Pipinos1,2, Mark A. Carlson1
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2Department of Surgery and VA Research Service, VA Nebraska - Western Iowa, Omaha, NE, USA
Mentor: Mark Carlson
Program: General Surgery
Type: Original Research
Background: There is ongoing need for large animal models of peripheral artery disease (PAD) mimicking human disease. We present mild, moderate and severe phenotypes of PAD in an Ossabaw swine model.

Methods: After 8 weeks of a western diet, we induced right hindlimb ischemia induction (T0) with open ligation and resection of Right Superficial Femoral Artery for mild (N=4), endovascular coil occlusion of Right External Iliac Artery, Right Superficial Femoral Artery for moderate (N=9) and coil occlusion of Right External Iliac Artery, Right Superficial Femoral Artery, and right internal iliac artery for severe (N=4). At 4 weeks (T4) and 8 (T8), all swine underwent angiography and bilateral gastrocnemius biopsy. All swine underwent bilateral ankle brachial indices (ABI), and calf muscle tissue oximetry (STO2) measurements at T0, T4, and T8, and weekly measurement of their treadmill walking distance.

Results: At T4 and T8, there was worsening of Right ABI, Right calf STO2, and treadmill
function with severity of phenotype (Table 1). Angiographically, at T4 and T8, the arteries that had the largest growth were the Right Profunda Artery in mild, the Right Internal Iliac Artery in moderate, and the Left Internal Iliac Artery in severe. T4, moderate and severe had similar delays of Right Profunda Artery reconstitution, however this improved at T8 in moderate unlike in severe. Histologically, mild had no obvious myopathy. There was moderate myopathy in moderate and severe end stage myopathy in severe. All severe subjects developed ischemic ulcers and tissue loss.

Conclusion: The length and proximity of occlusive disease dictates the characteristics and severity of phenotypes in an Ossabaw swine model of PAD.

#24. Resident Perceptions of a Residents as Teachers Curriculum: A Qualitative Assessment
Kelsey R. Tiiken1, Madeline R. Cloonan1, Tiffany N. Tanner1, Abbey L. Fingeret1
1Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA

Mentor: Abbey L. Fingeret
Program: General Surgery
Type: Original Research

Background: General surgery residents educate medical students, although may lack formal training with a “Residents as Teachers” curriculum (RaTC). This study’s aim was to understand the resident perspective on what makes an excellent surgical educator, strengths of single institution-developed RaTC, and identify teaching scenarios residents find challenging.

Methods: A longitudinal eight-hour RaTC was developed and administered in one-hour sessions over two years. Content included interactive clinical and technical skills teaching, feedback, evaluation and assessment, and interpersonal skills. Residents who had completed the RaTC were invited to participate in interviews exploring their perceptions of the RaTC and their own clinical teaching experiences. Interview comments were coded and analyzed for thematic content.

Results: Seven subjects participated in interviews. Subjects reported that the RaTC was helpful in enhancing their skills as surgical educators and emphasized that teaching is an important part of their job. Thematic analysis identified three areas in which subjects commented on both facilitators and barriers to educating in the clinical environment: educator behaviors and teaching methodologies, learner attitudes and behaviors, and structural or environmental factors (Table 1).

Conclusion: The RaTC was well received by our participants, who reported that it helped improve their ability to teach medical students. However, they often felt uncomfortable implementing these skills, particularly when teaching procedural tasks, giving constructive criticism, and finding time to teach throughout the day. Future curricula could be designed to provide more time to practice these skills in a low-stakes setting, which may help residents feel more confident utilizing them while teaching.

Table 1. Data Overview.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mild (N=4)</th>
<th>Moderate (N=9)</th>
<th>Severe (N=4)</th>
<th>P value</th>
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<tr>
<td>T4</td>
<td>T8</td>
<td>T4</td>
<td>T8</td>
<td>T4</td>
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<tr>
<td>R ABI/L ABI</td>
<td>0.79±0.09</td>
<td>0.84±0.14</td>
<td>0.53±0.07</td>
<td>0.56±0.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>STO2 Difference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-L Calf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM *</td>
<td>R or T8/T0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiographic growth R/L</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R PFA</td>
<td>1.58±0.2</td>
<td>1.55±0.4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>R PFA</td>
<td>1.22±0.3</td>
<td>1.08±0.1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R PFA</td>
<td>0.99±0.1</td>
<td>1.31±0.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiographic growth</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.24±0.4</td>
<td>1.24±0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>R L IIa</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.32±0.28</td>
<td>1.36±0.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFA/L</td>
<td>0.65±0.05</td>
<td>0.65±0.12</td>
<td>3.28±0.59</td>
<td>2.41±0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFA Appearance time</td>
<td>T8 v T8</td>
<td>MI &gt;0.45</td>
<td>MD &lt;0.01</td>
<td>S &gt;0.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**#25. Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem-Cell Therapy Improves Arteriogenesis, Hemodynamics, and Walking Performance in a Porcine Model of Peripheral Artery Disease**

Ali H. Hakim1,2, Yuyqian Tian1,2, Al-Murtadha Al-Gahmi1,2, Katya Brunette1, Julian Kim1,2, Zhen Zhu1, George P. Casale1, Mark A. Carlson1, Iraklis I. Pipinos1,2

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2Department of Surgery and VA Research Service, Nebraska/Western Iowa, Omaha, NE, USA

**Mentor:** Iraklis Pipinos

**Program:** General Surgery

**Type:** Original Research

**Background:** In our porcine model of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), we test adipose-derived stem cells (ADSC) injected transeversely around the retroperitoneal aortic trifurcation as an alternative to revascularization.

**Methods:** In Ossabaw mini-swine (N=13; age=6mo) right (R) hindlimb ischemia was induced with R Superficial Femoral and R External Iliac Artery coil occlusion using carotid access. Swine underwent weekly treadmill performance testing (TP). At weeks 0(T0), 4(T4), and 8(T8), ankle brachial indices (ABI) and resting muscle tissue Oximetry (STO2) were measured in calves and thighs. At T4 and T8 all swine had angiography. At T4, in treatment (Tx) swine (N=4) ADSC was isolated using stromal vascular fractionation. Transvenously, a catheter with a retractable side-deploying needle is inserted in the R iliac vein and the needle is deployed to access the retroperitoneum and infuse ADSC around the iliac arteries.

**Results:** Ischemic controls (IC) had no differences between T4 and T8 in ABI, and mean STO2 differences between R and L in calves and thighs. Tx improved ABI and mean STO2 measurements (Table 1). IC had no changes in TP between T4 and T8. Tx showed improvements (Table 1). On angiography, IC had growth of R Internal iliac artery (RIIA) and shorter appearance time (AT) of RIIA compared to L with no difference between T4 and T8. Tx showed increased growth of RIIA and shorter AT at T8 compared to T4 (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** In a swine model of PAD, ADSC injected around the aortic trifurcation showed improvement of multiple hemodynamic and performance endpoints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Data Summary.</th>
<th>Ischemic Control Group</th>
<th>ADSC Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ABI reduction (%) R (\times) L</strong></td>
<td>T4</td>
<td>T8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47±7</td>
<td>43±13</td>
<td>&gt;0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STO2 Difference L-R Calf</strong></td>
<td>20±6.6</td>
<td>14.3±3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STO2 Difference L-R Thigh</strong></td>
<td>11.4±5.7</td>
<td>10.7±8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TP reduction (%) T4 or T8/T0</strong></td>
<td>47±28</td>
<td>53±26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angiographic Growth of Artery (%) R RIIA-T4 or T8/T0</strong></td>
<td>104.3±62.7</td>
<td>119.1±56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R IIA/L IIA appearance time</strong></td>
<td>0.75±0.13</td>
<td>0.80±0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**#26. Student, Resident, and Faculty Perceptions on Providing Excellent Surgical Education: A Qualitative Analysis**

Kelsey R. Tieken1, Madeline R. Cloonan1, Abbey L. Fingeret1

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**Mentor:** Abbey L. Fingeret

**Program:** General Surgery

**Type:** Original Research

**Background:** Surgical residents provide clinical education for medical students. However, most have no formal training in teaching before beginning residency. This study aimed to determine, from the perspective of students, surgical residents, and faculty, how to provide excellent surgical education to medical trainees.

**Methods:** Fourth-year medical students, surgical residents, and faculty were recruited to participate in a semi-structured interview. The interview guide included questions about what qualities make good surgical educators, teaching scenarios in which they struggle to teach effectively, and strategies they have found to improve their teaching. All interviews were recorded, transcribed, coded, and analyzed for thematic content.

**Results:** Two students, two residents, and two faculty from four institutions participated. Subjects felt formal curricula on teaching are lacking in surgical training. Participants commented on the importance of departmental culture and interpersonal skills, including enthusiasm for teaching, inclusivity for learners, and creating a safe space for building learner confidence. Teaching to each learner’s level and interest, patience with learners, and finding time to create learning opportunities during a busy day were important, although educators commented that time was a frequent barrier to teaching effectively. Participants felt that it was the educator’s responsibility to take ownership of their teaching ability and to personally reflect and adapt their strategies when a learner is struggling.

**Conclusion:** Formal training in education is lacking in surgical residency programs. Developing curricula focusing on honing interpersonal skills, strategies to maximize teaching efficiency, and self-reflection of each educator’s teaching skills may help improve residents’ confidence and effectiveness in teaching medical trainees.
#27. Impact of Speed of Seizure Spread on IQ and Post-operative Seizure Freedom in Refractory Epilepsy

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Mentor: Olga Taraschenko
Program: Neurological Sciences
Type: Original Research

Results: Among 45 patients, 71% were female, and the mean age at surgery was 38±13 years. During visual analysis, 20(44%) had early spread, 16(35.5%) had late spread, and 9(20%) had absent spread. There were no statistically significant differences between early and late spread groups regarding their performance on GAI/FSIQ, VCI, and PRI tests, and no association was observed between early/late spread and Engel score distribution. The signal processing algorithm has agreed with the clinical categorization of early vs. late ictal spread in 78.5% of seizures.

Conclusion: Early seizure spread in focal medically refractory epilepsy may not affect patients’ general intellectual function nor determine their postoperative seizure freedom. A signal processing algorithm for the analysis of seizure spread on intracranial EEGs can be applied to supplement the visual analysis of seizure data.

#28. Pregnancy and Motherhood in Neurosurgery Residency Training and Beyond

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2Department of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA
3Department of Biostatistics, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA
4Department of Neurosurgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA

Mentor: Aviva Abosch
Program: Neurosurgery
Type: Original Research

Nearly a third of women experienced at least one miscarriage – half of which occurred during residency. Most residents (92%) stated coresidents and/or attendings would resent them for asking to do shorter cases during pregnancy, and 66% witnessed negative comments about other pregnant residents during training. An estimated 36% witnessed a colleague make a derogatory comment about breastfeeding/pumping, and accommodations permitting time to pump during the workday was only reported in 54% of respondents. One in four women would choose another career more accommodating of parenthood than neurosurgery, and 41% would discourage female medical students from pursuing neurosurgery.

Conclusion: Women in neurosurgery face significant challenges in balancing pregnancy and their careers. It is imperative to understand these barriers to implement changes to the field both systematically and socially, for improving the recruitment and success of women in neurosurgery.