Plastic Surgery Trainee Participation in Global Health

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BACKGROUND

Plastic surgeons have long been involved in global humanitarian efforts.

Interest in delivering global healthcare is increasing among plastic surgery trainees.

OBJECTIVE

To examine available literature regarding participation of plastic surgery trainees in global health opportunities and the quality and impact of these experiences.

METHODS

Searched PubMed database using the following terms:
- “plastic surgery residency global health training”
- “plastic surgery global health training”
- “plastic surgery global health”

Included only articles written in English.

Manuscript titles and abstracts reviewed for relevance to the question, and these studies were analyzed.

RESULTS

383 articles were identified, of which 6 met the inclusion criteria.

Of these, there were:
- 2 surveys of 95 program directors
- 3 surveys of 268 trainee participants in international humanitarian missions
- 1 survey of 122 trainees on potential international opportunities

CONCLUSIONS

There is increasing interest in incorporating global health experiences into plastic surgery training.

The current literature suggests that educators and trainees have generally viewed these experiences favorably.

Additional research is needed to update trends in global health participation by trainees, optimize integration of trainees in global healthcare delivery, overcome recognized barriers to trainee participation, and verify the impact of trainee involvement on healthcare quality in international locations and on plastic surgeons as they progress beyond training.

REFERENCES