Overlapping and Concurrent Surgery in Plastic Surgery Training Programs: A Program Director Survey

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Introduction
• “Is it right for surgeons to divide their attention between two operating rooms, especially when patients don’t know?” – The Boston Globe, 20151
• ASPS, ACS, and SFC responded2, 3, 4

Objectives
1. Characterize Program Director (PD) perspectives
2. Evaluate institutional policies, including patient disclosure and documentation

Methods
All 102 PDs surveyed 62 responses (61%)

Results
- 81% Have a policy
- 56% Changed policy in last 5 years
- 79% Allow overlapping
- 73% Do not allow concurrent

Impact of Overlapping Surgery
- 64% Positive
- 70% Negative

Access to Plastic Surgeons
- 11% Positive
- 15% Negative

Trainee Education
- 10% Positive
- 40% Negative

Billing
- 32% Positive
- 32% Negative

Impact of Overlapping Surgery
- 81%
- 75%

Conclusions
- Overlapping surgery is viewed positively by program directors
- Most programs allow overlapping surgery, but most do not allow concurrent surgery
- Regional frequencies are similar, with overlapping surgery occurring weekly in many programs
- Despite progress, policies regarding patient disclosure and EMR documentation are needed

References
1. Abelson, J., et al., Clash in the Name of Care, in Boston Globe. 2015.