

**Oral Presentation 10 - Title: THE ACGME CASE LOG: EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS' PEDIATRIC SURGERY EXPERIENCE**

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**Background**: General surgery (GS) residents in ACGME-accredited programs are required to log all cases performed during their residency. This study aimed to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the number of pediatric surgery (PS) cases performed by GS residents, given concerns about a reduction in surgical operations during the pandemic.

**Methods/Research Design**. ACGME case logs for graduating GS residents from academic years (AY) 1989-1990 to 2023-2024 were analyzed, with a particular focus on designated pediatric cases. The data were divided into eight time periods, with the final period (Period 8) covering AY 2020-2021 to AY 2023-2024, representing the time frame encompassing the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's Post-Hoc tests were used to compare data across time periods.

**Results (or Preliminary Results, as applicable for a project in progress)**: While the overall number of cases logged by GS residents increased over time (Figure 1a), the total number of pediatric cases (Figure 1b) and their proportion compared to adult cases declined (Figure 1c). Pediatric surgeries accounted for 5.28% (SD=0.18%) of total cases in Period 1, but this decreased to 2.16% (SD=0.04%) in Period 8. The average number of pediatric cases per resident dropped from 47.7 (SD=0.64) in Period 1 to 22.9 (SD=0.32) in Period 8. This decrease was primarily driven by a reduction in hernia cases, which made up a significant portion of the pediatric case load. Statistically significant declines in the proportion of PS cases were observed in most consecutive time periods, except between Periods 7 (25.4%) and 8 (22.9%) (Figure 1c). Interestingly, after an initial decline from Periods 1 to 5, the proportion of pediatric cases performed by chief residents increased in Periods 6 through 8 (Figure 1d).

**Conclusion (or Preliminary Conclusion, as applicable for a project in progress)**: The overall number of pediatric cases logged by GS residents has steadily decreased over time, and this decline continued through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, no significant impact from the pandemic itself was noted, aside from a higher proportion of pediatric cases being performed during the Chief year of residency. This shift may be related to the need to meet case volume requirements, and it could continue in future cohorts, necessitating ongoing monitoring.