

Orthopaedic training in Kenya

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Abstract:

Background: Orthopaedic training in Kenya, like in other East, Central and Southern Africa college of surgeons (COSECSA) countries is varied leading to specialists with varying exposures and competencies. The experience in Kenya is used here to study the problem, point out the shortcomings and suggest possible remedies for the future. **Objective:** To do a survey of the current orthopaedic specialists in Kenya's training since their first medical degrees. Determine the duration, facilities and methods of training. **Methods:** A number of doctors trained under different arrangements were identified, interviewed and where curriculum was available this was read. **Results:** The basic degree for most specialists was MMed (Surgery). This had six months of Orthopaedic Surgery. Post MMED exposure varied widely. The second group consisted of those with MMed or MSc. (Orthopaedics) of four years. Facilities, duration and methods of teaching varied widely. **Conclusions:** The duration, facilities and methods of orthopaedic training varied widely in the region. The end products significantly differed in their practices and competencies, especially knowing that most of them go to work on their own after the training. **Recommendations:** There is need to standardize the Orthopaedic training in the region. This could be best done through COSECSA. On its part COSECSA must strictly observe the training programme. The registering bodies must also draw up common criteria for Orthopaedic specialists' registration. Assistance from abroad in these early times is necessary.