

A Modified Delphi Process to Establish Future Research Priorities in Malignant Oesophagogastric Surgery

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surge.2019.11.003>

For which topic were research priorities identified?

malignant oesophagogastric surgery

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

With rapid advancement in the genomics of oesophagogastric (OG) cancer and raised expectations in clinical outcomes from patients and clinicians alike there is a clear need to determine the current research priorities in OG cancer surgery.

What was the objective?

to determine the research priorities among oesophagogastric cancer surgeons in the United Kingdom

What was the outcome?

a list of 12 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to submit research questions across the entire spectrum of upper gastrointestinal (upper GI) and hepatopancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery (including both benign and malignant conditions), 427 questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: questions collated and grouped into 4 categories, resulting in 75 questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each OG cancer surgery question, questions with mean rating ≥ 3.7 moved forward. Step 4: Delphi round 3: participants were asked to re-rate questions. Step 5: identifying final list: it was decided that all questions with mean rating of ≥ 3.5 with Likert score of 4-5 by $\geq 65\%$ of participants shall be priority questions, resulting in final list of 12 questions

Which stakeholders took part?

Members of the association of upper gastrointestinal surgeons: surgeons. Delphi round 1: 140 participants. Delphi round 2: 44 participants. Delphi round 3: 42 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Experts were recruited from the Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (AUGIS) membership, which includes medical professionals and members of the wider multidisciplinary team such as research nurses, dietician and cancer specialist nurses. Members were invited by email to submit research questions across the entire spectrum of upper gastrointestinal (Upper GI) and hepatopancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery (including both benign and malignant conditions). The survey was also promoted via Twitter.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders not only participated but were also actively involved in the research prioritization process: They were part of a steering group. The steering group consisted of 2 Upper GI surgical senior trainees, 2 consultant OG cancer surgeons, 1 consultant oncologist, 1 lay person. The members ensured relevance of the submitted questions from both a clinical and patient perspective and provided consensus agreement.