

# Use of a Modified Delphi Approach to Develop Research Priorities in HPB Surgery Across the United Kingdom

Knight et al. (2019)

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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

## Why was it conducted at all?

Methodological and practical difficulties present unique challenges to the surgical research community, with research quality historically variable and often poor. Integration of research and practice through a collaborative approach can often overcome such challenges and enhance research impact, such as the Dutch Pancreatic Cancer Group in hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery. Identifying a national consensus on research priorities provides the opportunity to increase value and reduce waste in HPB research. Furthermore, the engagement of stakeholders in research encourages the development of clinically relevant research priorities and the potential for national collaboration in HPB research. Using structured prioritization methods to achieve consensus can maximise relevance, guide funding bodies and channel resources.

## What was the objective?

to identify a list of highly prioritized clinical research questions in hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery using a modified Delphi approach to guide future research and funding bodies

## What was the outcome?

a list of 11 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: healthcare professionals asked to submit potential research questions across upper gastrointestinal and HPB surgery, 427 research questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: submitted questions grouped into four categories, duplicate questions removed, similar questions streamlined. Step 3: Delphi round 2: collated list of 93 research questions, participants were asked to rate each question, mean priority score of equal or larger 3 remained for round 3. Step 4: Delphi round 3: list of 37 questions, participants were asked to re-rate

## Which stakeholders took part?

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

## How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited as attendees at the Great Britain and Ireland Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (GBIHPBA) conference.

## 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 surgical registrars, a cancer nurse specialist, patient and public representation, a medical oncologist with specialist interest in HPB disease and three consultant HPB surgeons. The members were involved in the Delphi process.