

A Modified AUGIS Delphi Process to Establish Research Priorities in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery

Wilson et al. (2020)
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For which topic were research priorities identified?

bariatric and metabolic surgery

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

Despite the unquestionable improvements observed following bariatric and/or metabolic surgery, there is a huge knowledge gap in the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying the clinical benefit. Thus, there is a clear need for the development of research priorities in bariatric surgery, with an emphasis on the mechanisms by which bariatric surgery works.

What was the objective?

to develop a list of future research priorities for bariatric and metabolic surgery

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: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants to submit research questions across upper gastrointestinal (GI) and hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery, 372 questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: submitted questions collated and grouped into 4 categories, duplicates removed, resulting in 51 bariatric and metabolic surgery research questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each bariatric and metabolic surgery research question, questions with mean rating ≥ 3.0 moved forward, resulting in 35 questions. 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 ≥ 3.6 with Likert score of 4-5 by $\geq 60\%$ of participants shall be priority questions, resulting in final list of 11 questions

Which stakeholders took part?

Members of the association of upper gastrointestinal surgeons and the British obesity and metabolic surgery society: surgeons. Delphi round 1: 140 participants. Delphi round 2: 54 participants. Delphi round 3: 45 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were the AUGIS (Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland) members. Members were invited by email to submit research questions across upper gastrointestinal upper GI) and hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB).

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 1 upper GI surgical registrar, 1 bariatric dietician, 2 consultant bariatric surgeons, 1 lay representative, and 1 patient and public representative. The members ensured relevance of the submitted questions from both a clinical and patient perspective and provided consensus agreement.