

A Modified AUGIS Delphi Process to Establish Future Research Priorities in Benign Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

Wilson et al. (2020)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

benign upper gastrointestinal surgery

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

The scope of benign upper gastrointestinal (UGI) surgery is broad and includes the management of common conditions such as cholelithiasis, pancreatitis, Barrett's oesophagus and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. An evidence-based approach is the ideal way to manage patients with these conditions, but a significant proportion of benign UGI practice lacks an evidence base.

What was the objective?

to determine the research priorities amongst benign upper gastrointestinal surgeons in the United Kingdom

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: 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). Step 2: data processing: questions collated and grouped, resulting in 79 questions on benign upper gastrointestinal surgery, 51 questions moving forward after data cleaning. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each benign UGI surgery research question. 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 $\geq 50\%$ 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: surgeons. Delphi round 1: 140 participants. Delphi round 2: 69 participants. Delphi round 3: 65 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, dietitians and specialist nurses. 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 1 upper GI senior surgical trainee, 5 consultant upper GI surgeons, and 2 lay people. The members ensured relevance of the submitted questions from both a clinical and patient perspective and provided consensus agreement.