Unmasking The Challenges: A Qualitative Study of Barriers to Training Pediatric Surgeons in Minimally Invasive Surgery in Pakistan

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Introduction

- Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has become a cornerstone of modern pediatric surgical care globally.
- However, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) like Pakistan, the opportunities are not the same.

Objectives

To explore the barriers faced in acquiring and teaching Pediatric MIS skills.

Methodology

Study Sites

Pediatric surgery departments across Pakistan (public + private)

Participants

12 surgeons (experts + senior learners); purposive & snowball sampling

Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews using thematic guide

Analysis

Verbatim transcription, coding, thematic analysis

Findings

Key Takeaways & Solutions

- Pediatric MIS training in Pakistan is hindered by systemic, infrastructural, and educational challenges.
- Essential steps toward bridging the MIS training divide in LMICs are :
  - MIS curriculum with modules.
  - Free simulation labs.
  - Dedicated MIS time slots.
  - Government investment.
  - Local training programs.

"We had pay in dollars for a workshop in Dubai, not everyone in Pakistan can afford that."

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