

## Supplemental Digital Content (SDC) 1

### **Barriers and facilitators of laparoscopic surgical training in rural north-east India: A qualitative study E Wilkinson, N Aruparayil et al**

#### Interview Question Guide

Introduce myself to the participant and ask them to introduce themselves. Run through the information sheet and consent form with them, answering any questions. Sign and date the consent form. Verbal consent also given. Explain the structure of the interview.

Information on the surgeon/doctors' qualifications will be provided by GHRG-ST and referred to if necessary, during the interview. Curriculum information for DNB-Rural Surgery has been obtained and will also be referred to throughout the interview if necessary.

#### Topic One: Training experiences in laparoscopic surgery

- ★ **Can you briefly talk me through your career, specifically from the point of specializing in surgery?**
  
- ★ **How and when did you start practicing laparoscopic surgery?**
  - How were you trained in laparoscopy?
  - Did you have any formal training? Did you learn on the job?
  - Who introduced the laparoscopic technique to you?
  - Talk me through the laparoscopic training programme(s) you have attended?
  
- ★ **What did you think about the way you learnt laparoscopy?**

#### Topic Two: Demand for/accessibility of laparoscopic training

- ★ **Why did you start practicing laparoscopic surgery?**
  - Was it introduced to you or did you seek the skill yourself?
  
- ★ **Do you think that there are a lot of rural surgeons trained in laparoscopy, or is it rare?**
  
- ★ **Amongst the rural surgeons who aren't trained in laparoscopy – why do you think that is?**
  
- ★ **Do you think that there is a need for continued or increased use of laparoscopic surgery in rural India?**
  - If so/if not, why?
  
- ★ **Do you think that there is a need for more doctors/surgeons like yourself to be trained in laparoscopic surgery?**
  - If so/if not, why?
  - How about rural Indian surgeons specifically, versus those who may work in more urban/better resourced environments?
  
- ★ **If you had not had the chance to learn laparoscopy the way you did, would you have sought out a training opportunity?**
  
- ★ **Are the benefits of laparoscopic surgery well recognised?**

- ★ **If a rural surgeon wants to learn laparoscopy, how might they go about it?**  
-Where could they access training?
- ★ **What might be a barrier to accessing laparoscopic training for a rural surgeon?**

Topic Three: Need for a structured laparoscopic curriculum

- ★ **How do you think surgeons should be trained in laparoscopy?**  
-Structured, formal training programme?  
-Why/Why not?

Topic Four: Features of a structured laparoscopic curriculum

If demand for a structured laparoscopic curriculum...

- ★ **What training methods do you think are best for learning laparoscopy?**  
e.g. E-learning/face-to-face/box trainers/on the job  
-Why?
- ★ **How should a structured laparoscopic curriculum be assessed?**  
-Formal, standardized assessment?  
-Informal agreement between trainer/trainer?
- ★ **When in a surgeon's career is it most appropriate to learn laparoscopy?**  
e.g. MBBS, postgraduate training, specialty training
- ★ **Should a laparoscopy curriculum be made a compulsory part of a rural surgeon's training?**  
e.g. MBBS, MS, DNB – Rural Surgery  
**Or should it be an optional, stand-alone training course?**  
  
If so...
  - ★ **Should it make up a large portion of the curriculum? Why?**