

SURGERY NIGHT FLOAT: SHOULD MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE A SPOT ON THE ROSTER?

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Abstract

Objectives: To identify rotation characteristics that encourage students' interest in surgery, and present night float services as a setting that provides those experiences

Hypothesis: A night float surgical rotation is an effective educational experience for 4th year medical students to prepare for internship; and exceeds day-shift rotations in operative and procedural opportunities, autonomy, and instructive interactions with attending physicians and residents

Introduction

- ❖ ~70% residencies have adopted a night float system since 2003
- ❖ Previous studies have shown students prefer night float to traditional call
- ❖ Night float has demonstrated higher quality resident-led teaching, more new patient admissions, better team cohesion, and higher average NBME scores

Methods

Twenty students and residents were surveyed after having completed a 4-week Trauma and Emergency Surgery night float service (6 days per week; 5:00pm-7:00am) as a 4th year sub-internship elective.

Results

- ❖ Response rate: 65% (N=13)
- ❖ Equally busy: 69.2%
- ❖ More operative time: 46.2%
- ❖ More bedside procedures: 84.7%
- ❖ More time with attending: 46.2%
- ❖ More attending-led teaching: 38.5%
- ❖ More resident-led teaching: 84.7%
- ❖ More likely to apply to a surgical residency: 69.2%
- ❖ More autonomy, more prepared for surgical residency, and would recommend the elective to students interested in surgery: 100%

Discussion

The night float surgical sub-internship was a successful and well-received experience for 4th medical students, with increased autonomy, more frequent procedures, and added resident-led education, when compared to a traditional daytime surgical clerkship/sub-internship; all of which are positively correlated with likelihood of applying to a surgical residency.

Conclusions

A night float schedule can be implemented into more medical school surgical education programs as a valuable learning experience that promotes adequate preparation for, and increased interest in, surgical residencies and careers.

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Likelihood of Applying to a Surgical Residency After Night Float Experience



Comparison of Surgical Night Float Experiences to Traditional Daytime Shifts

