



National Board of Examination - Journal of Medical Sciences
Volume 1, Issue 11, Page 625–626, November 2023,
DOI 10.61770/NBEJMS.2023.v01.i11.001

EDITORIAL

Revelations & Opportunities in Paediatric Surgery

Minu Bajpai¹ and Abhijat Sheth²

¹Dean (Academics), Professor & Head, Department of Paediatric Surgery, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi - 110029, India

²Senior Consultant, Cardiothoracic Surgeon & C.E.O., Apollo Hospital, Ahmedabad & President, NBEMS

Accepted: 05-November-2023 / Published Online: 07-November-2023

“Thrive To Set Standards & Not Seek Monopoly”

Paediatric Surgery encompasses a wide spectrum of conditions which essentially include the surgically correctible birth defects but also tumours, trauma and infections. Child is not a mini-adult. Biologically, children's anatomy, physiology, and pathology go through significant changes. Infants and very young children show an increased vulnerability to environmental and other harms, because of their size, immature anatomy and physiology, and differing pharmacodynamics. Organ development determines the patterns of disease that occur in childhood and affects drug treatments and responses to them.

*Corresponding author: Minu Bajpai
E-mail address: bajpai2b@gmail.com

Pediatric surgeons undertake surgery of congenital malformations, acquired neonatal diseases, common conditions like hernias, undescended testes and appendicitis, but also of the more complex gastrointestinal, broncho-pulmonary or genitourinary conditions, tumors, trauma and solid organ transplantation.

This vast array of interventions, require open, endoscopic and minimally invasive techniques.

The broad spectrum of diseases, often less frequent in incidence, makes training long and hard, but this intensive involvement and care gives the specialty a unique place in academic parlance.

Pediatric surgeons also carry out research work in their field in the quest to seek answers to some hitherto, intriguing biological behaviour of birth defects.

The specialty has the age group of patients which ranges from neonates to up to 18 years of age. Thereby, the specialty is unique, as, the Paediatric surgeons:

1. Get to see disease spectrum presenting in their wide range of natural history because parents seek treatment often late
2. Follow up to see their patients after surgery for long periods, thereby, allowing assessment of the procedures which they have performed.

Thus, it provides an opportunity to do course correction when needed.

Congenital malformation also present in different shades of spectrum and therefore, surgical procedures, too, have to be modified to offer the best correction in a given case.

Some of the examples of various surgical procedures performed by Paediatric surgeons in their long careers are:

Replacement of oesophageal defects by various types of replacements, spina bifida, anorectal malformations, congenital uropathies- pelviureteric junction obstruction, vesicoureteric reflux, posterior urethral valves, bladder exstrophy, hypospadias & neurogenic bladder, to name a few.

Several sub-specialties have emerged from this general spectrum. These are:

1. Urology
2. Gastro Intestinal Surgery
3. Hepatobiliary surgery
4. Neurosurgery
5. Thoracic surgery
6. Trauma

Following areas are integral to each of the above broad ones & performed by all:

- a. To be done by all specialists by rotation
 - I. Neonatal surgery
 - II. Laparoscopy
 - III. Surgical oncology
 - IV. Organ transplant
 - V. Basic Paediatric Surgery: hernia, hydrocoele, cleft lip & palate, malignancies of non-specialized field prescribed above;
 - VI. Foetal surgery

In summary, Paediatric Surgery is a stimulating, academic & research oriented specialty which makes the Paediatric Surgeons the most versatile among their peers & with an unmatched finesse in their skills.