

Early-career practice patterns of sports medicine trainees studied

July 22 2022



For early-career sports medicine candidates, about 40 percent of the

procedures they perform may be outside of the sports medicine subspecialty, according to a study published online June 30 in the *Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery*.

Paul M. Inclan, M.D., from Washington University in St. Louis, and colleagues used the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery Part-II Case List database to examine [practice patterns](#) among oral examination candidates and dual [fellowship](#)-trained [sports medicine](#) candidates. The analysis included 3,298 applicants indicating completion of a sports medicine fellowship between 2003 and 2020.

The researchers found that on average, sports medicine-trained candidates submitted 100.6 cases for review during the six-month case collection period: 58.6 percent sports medicine/arthroscopy cases; 29.1 percent trauma/general cases; 4.5 percent adult reconstruction cases; and 7.8 percent "other" cases per candidate. The proportion of sports medicine/arthroscopy cases did not change during the study period. Overall, 10.1 percent of individuals indicated a dual fellowship training. During the study period, the number of dual fellowship-trained candidates pursuing additional fellowship training in pediatrics and adult reconstruction increased, while the number of dual fellowship-trained candidates pursuing additional fellowship training in trauma decreased.

"The average young surgeon's practice is, realistically, that of a generalist surgeon with an emphasis on sports medicine," the authors write.

More information: Paul M. Inclan et al, Early-Career Sports Medicine Surgeons Perform a Large Volume of Non-Sports Medicine Procedures, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* (2022). [DOI: 10.2106/JBJS.21.01129](https://doi.org/10.2106/JBJS.21.01129)

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Citation: Early-career practice patterns of sports medicine trainees studied (2022, July 22) retrieved 17 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-07-early-career-patterns-sports-medicine-trainees.html>

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