



Resident Exposure to Peripheral Nerve Surgical Procedures During Residency Training

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Introduction

The objective of this study is to assess Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) case log data for graduating orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, general surgery, and neurological surgery residents for peripheral nerve surgical procedures and to evaluate the level of intraspecialty and interspecialty variability of peripheral nerve procedure case volume.

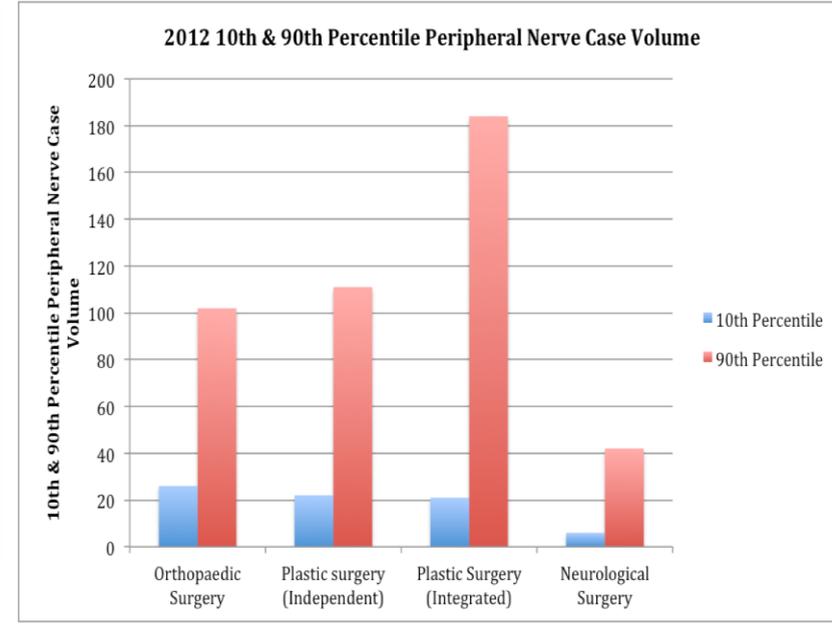
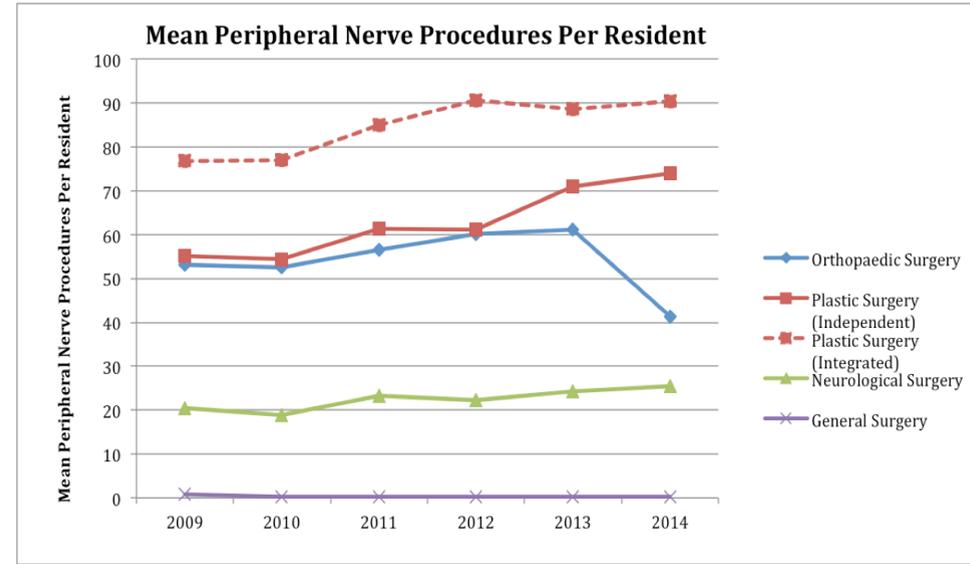
Methods

ACGME surgical case logs from 2009 to 2014 for plastic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, neurological surgery and general surgery residency were compared for peripheral nerve surgery experience.

Results

The average number of total peripheral nerve procedures performed per graduating resident was 54.2 ± 7.18 for orthopaedic surgery residents, 62.8 ± 8.04 for residents from independent plastic surgery programs, 84.6 ± 6.4 for residents from integrated plastic surgery programs, 22.4 ± 2.4 for neurosurgery residents, and 0.4 ± 0.24 for general surgery residents.

Intraspecialty comparison of the 10th and 90th percentile peripheral nerve case volume in 2012 revealed remarkable variability in training. There was a 3.9 fold difference within the orthopaedic surgery resident group, 5.0-fold difference within the plastic surgery resident group from independent residencies, 8.8-fold difference within the plastic surgery resident group from integrated residencies, and 7.0-fold difference within the neurological surgery resident group.



Total peripheral nerve procedures reported per graduating resident*	
Residency Program	Total Peripheral Nerve Procedures
Orthopaedic Surgery	54.2 (48.4 to 59.9)
Plastic Surgery (Independent)	62.8 (56.4 to 69.2)
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)	84.6 (79.5 to 89.7)
Neurological Surgery	22.4 (20.5 to 24.4)
General Surgery	0.4 (0.2 to 0.6)

*The values are given as the mean number of total peripheral nerve procedures performed per graduating resident by each group, with the 95% confidence intervals in parentheses.

Conclusions

There is significant interspecialty and intraspecialty variability in peripheral nerve surgery training for orthopaedic, plastic, neurological and general surgery trainees.

References

- ACGME Case Logs
- Daniels AH, Ames CP, Smith JS, Hart RA. Variability in Spine Surgery Procedures Performed During Orthopaedic and Neurological Surgery Residency Training: An Analysis of ACGME Case Log Data. *J Bone Jt Surg.* 2014;96(23):e196-e196. doi:10.2106/JBJS.M.01562.
- Daniels AH, Ames CP, Smith JS, Hart RA. Variability in spine surgery procedures performed during orthopaedic and neurological surgery residency training: an analysis of ACGME case log data. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2014;96(23):e196. doi:10.2106/JBJS.M.01562.