

## Impact of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic on Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents' Case Logs

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The COVID-19 pandemic has affected healthcare systems worldwide. Healthcare providers decreased non-urgent clinical work to optimize resources for affected patients. This decrease is expected to affect residency training, which may pose difficulties in meeting surgical log requirements.

We audited case log numbers of fourth- and sixth-year residents from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International (ACGME-I) Case Log System, Singapore, for the academic years of 2019 and 2020. Obstetric, benign gynecological and gynecological-oncology case log totals were collected. There was a 14.29% decrease in mean case numbers logged by the fourth-years between 2019 and 2020, compared to a 6.84% increase for the sixth-years. A significant decrease was observed in the numbers of benign gynecological and obstetric cases logged by fourth-year residents ( $P=0.001$ ). Aside from the reduction in benign gynecology cases for fourth-year residents in 2020, the year-to-year case load for obstetrics, benign gynecology and gynecological-oncology of fourth-year residents remained stable. For sixth-year residents, all areas showed an increase in case-logs from 2019 to 2020; +4.61% for obstetric, +5.98% for benign gynecology and +37.5% for gynecological-oncology cases.

All residents successfully achieved the surgical case load requirements stipulated by ACGME-I.

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The observed increase in cases for sixth-year residents, contrasted with the reduction in fourth-year residents' case logs, is likely because the former were assigned to subspecialty departments, and not to general gynecology which saw the greatest reduction in non-time-sensitive cases. The largest increase was for benign laparoscopic surgeries (27.08%), possibly because emergency benign gynecological surgeries (such as laparoscopies for ectopic pregnancies or ovarian cyst emergencies) which form most operative laparoscopy cases logged, have not reduced in number despite the pandemic. Additionally, sixth-year residents may be given more operative opportunities given their higher skill set, which is important for efficiency during a major healthcare crisis.

Our review showed that despite the re-prioritization of hospital resources and shifts in surgical case patterns, all residents were able to meet the surgical training requirements stipulated by ACGME-I, suggesting that, in spite of COVID-19, surgical training and education in this aspect was not compromised.

### References

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