

69. **LEARNING OF INTIMATE AREA EXAMINATION AMONGST PAKISTANI MEDICAL STUDENTS: KAP STUDY**

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BACKGROUND: Intimate area examination (IAE) is an integral part of clinical examination skills and must be mastered by medical students before they start their careers. This study explores the experiences of Pakistani medical students regarding learning of IAE, the associated barriers and their impacts on students' learning. **METHODS:** This cross-sectional study, based on a self-designed questionnaire was conducted at two Pakistani medical colleges which included final year students, and post graduate trainees. **RESULTS:** During their undergraduate training, 74.9% of the respondents had not conducted a female pelvic examination, 51.9% had not examined a female groin, 79.7% had not examined a female rectum and 72.7% had not examined a male rectum. From the 65 postgraduate doctors, 48.4% reported that they were not prepared to perform an IAE at the start of their clinical career. Regarding barriers to IAE learning more than half of the respondents felt that the opposite gender of the patient (64.7%) and patient's refusal (63.1%) had a strong negative impact on IAE learning. A high percentage of respondents reported that they were not taught IAE during their undergraduate years. Among the currently used pedagogical techniques, 71.1% of the respondents opted for real patient-based learning, followed by clinical simulations (21.9%), and videos (7.0%). No one thought examination should be taught theoretically. A significant difference between male and female experience in IAE learning was also observed. **CONCLUSION:** Learning of IAE remains unsatisfactory and poses a major challenge for the Pakistani Medical Students in the institutes included in this study.

Table. Percent of the Students who Performed Intimate-Area Examinations During the Clinical Training by the Medical Colleges and by Sex (n=187).

Clinical Exam	Participant Reply	Public N=83, n(%)	Private N=104, n(%)	p	Male N=98, n(%)	Female N=89, n(%)	P
Female breast	Yes	66(79.5)	79(76.0)	0.563	63(64.3)	82(92.1)	0.000
	No	17(20.5)	17(24.0)		35(35.7)	7(7.9)	
Female pelvis	Yes	22(26.5)	25(24.0)	0.699	10(10.2)	37(41.6)	0.000
	No	61(73.5)	79(76.0)		88(89.8)	52(58.4)	
Female groin	Yes	30(36.1)	60(57.7)	0.003	37(37.8)	53(59.6)	0.003
	No	53(63.9)	44(42.3)		61(62.2)	36(40.4)	
Female rectum	Yes	11(13.3)	27(26.0)	0.032	13(13.3)	25(28.1)	0.012
	No	72(86.7)	77(74.0)		85(86.7)	64(71.9)	
Male groin	Yes	63(75.9)	85(81.7)	0.330	83(84.7)	65(73.0)	0.05
	No	20(24.1)	19(18.3)		15(15.3)	24(27.0)	
Male Rectum	Yes	25(30.1)	24(23.1)	0.268	33(33.7)	16(18.0)	0.051
	No	58(69.9)	78(75.0)		64(65.3)	72(80.9)	

Legend: Public= King Edward Medical University. Private= CMH LMC & IOD.

Key words: Clinical Skills; Physical Examination; Medical Students; Teaching Techniques (Source: MeSH-NLM).