

Reviewer A

Raznitsyna & Lemeschewskij presents an opinion paper on the procedures necessary to achieve proficiency in general surgery. Concepts are exposed and interestingly discussed. I would just add to the main text the aims that are only at the abstract.

Reply: The aim was added to the main text.

Reviewer B

It is a very nice article regarding surgical education.

I have a few comments:

Page 5

“In the USA a minimum number of procedures is 850 (from different surgical areas) (4); by the second year a trainee is expected to perform 15 appendectomies, 15 cholecystectomies, 20 groin hernia repairs – (8).”

According to the American Board of Surgery, it is required that the surgeon have at least 850 procedures to apply for the board certificate. The article’s text is not clear about that information. Additionally, reference number 8 is a Canadian article, not American, and I’m not sure if both countries consider the same parameters for surgical education

Page 7

Correct the term herniotomy.

References

11/16 references are in Russian. This fact impairs reader’s learning through reference consultation.

Reply

1). Page 4 we added the information about the Board certificate and we corrected the information about Canadian University:

“In the USA a minimum number of procedures for applying for the board certificate is 850 (from different surgical areas) (4). According Canadian Residency Training Program a trainee is expected to perform 15 appendectomies, 15 cholecystectomies, 20 groin hernia repairs by the second year– (8). In this Program there is a determined number of some procedures which can be performed in the skill lab (8), for example, hand sewn and stapled bowel anastomosis – 3 and 3”.

2) Page 5 – we added one more reference (12), that changed the order of the following.

3). Page 7 – we removed the term herniotomy and changed the text.

4). References: we changed 5 references (we found articles in English on the same topic), added 1 in English (#12) and changed one (book of operative surgery of Littmann) .