

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAINING IN PAEDIATRIC ENDOSCOPY

It is suggested that the pre-requisites for training and experience required for Paediatric Endoscopy could fall into three broad areas:

1. Facilities

Training in Paediatric Gastroenterology must take place in units recognized by the College Speciality Advisory Committee on Paediatric Gastroenterology.

The training unit should be equipped with modern video endoscopy equipment suitable for use in paediatric practice. High quality tele-visual display and image recording facilities should be mandatory. Access to training videos and 'JPEG/MPEG' programmes on the BSPGHAN web pages will be made available.

2. Endoscopic Experience

- i. Published and prospective data from one teaching unit in the UK suggest that most trainees require in the order of 100 diagnostic upper gastrointestinal endoscopies and 100 diagnostic ileo-colonoscopies under supervision before the minimum of acceptable competency is achieved. Specific competence in safety, technical ability, and lesion recognition will be assessed by the designated trainer. Accent is on ongoing skill assessment, i.e. qualitative rather than quantitative.
- ii. Initial technical experience in handling the endoscope/colonoscope may be gained in adult training environments, but these procedures will not be entered into the paediatric endoscopy logbook.
- iii. Trainees should have experience of removal of foreign bodies at upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and polypectomy at colonoscopy.
- iv. After achieving competence at these procedures (Level 1) it is expected that higher level training, if required, will provide experience in and competence to perform a wide variety of therapeutic procedures (Level 2). Threshold numbers of procedures would include, for instance: 5 variceal haemostasis procedures; 10 oesophageal dilations; 5 percutaneous gastrostomies - however the number performed does of course not equate with competence. Accent is on ongoing skill assessment, i.e. qualitative rather than quantitative.

A written record of the number and variety of procedures carried out under supervision, and subsequently independently, should be kept for the trainee's 'procedure experience record' or 'logbook'.

3. Courses in diagnostic and therapeutic paediatric endoscopy

- i. Trainees should endeavour to attend courses in both diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy.
- ii. Courses should be approved by the BSPGHAN CSAC and be provided on a regional or national basis.
- iii. Basic courses covering the principles of endoscopic practice may also be attended. These might be run purely for paediatric trainees, or in conjunction with the Basic Theory courses approved by the Joint Advisory Group on endoscopy training.