

# Challenges and improvement of obstetrics & gynaecology specialist training: A qualitative survey among UKM master students

Ahmad Shuib Yahaya<sup>1</sup>, Nur Azurah Abdul Ghani<sup>2</sup>, Mohhd Nasri Awang Besar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>3</sup>Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The Covid-19 pandemic that struck the world had caused changes in clinical practice and practitioners' clinical exposure. This research aims to identify the challenges faced by UKM obstetrics and gynaecology postgraduate students during their specialist training during Covid-19 pandemic and to explore their suggestion on how to improve training. **Methods:** Participants were students enrolled in Doctor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (DROG) program in UKM in 2020 and 2021. The questionnaire consist of validated open ended question on perceived challenges and suggestion for University & MOH on how to improve the training aspects. Qualitative analysis was performed using content and thematic analysis. **Results:** Out of 47 respondents, 13 were working in MOH hospitals, 17 in UKM Hospital and 17 in both MOH and UKM hospitals. Thirty-nine respondents (83%) claimed their workload had increased during this pandemic and four (8.5%) had been deployed to Covid-19 unit. Main challenges faced by students are lack of clinical skills training and lack of face-to-face teaching due to Movement Control Order (MCO). Content and thematic analysis on the suggestion to improve training during Covid-19 pandemic had highlighted four themes, namely: "diversify teaching and learning methods" (10 responds), "increase clinical exposure" (5 responds), "to be returned to Obstetrics & Gynaecology unit" (3 responds) and "institutional management" (2 responds). **Conclusion:** Covid-19 pandemic and MCO had caused negative impacts to clinical specialist training among our respondents. It is important to encourage collaborative effort and synergetic actions between the universities and health ministry to minimize negative impacts on specialist training.

A-096

# Microwave ablation of uterine fibroid – A new modality

Krishna Kumar Hari Krishnan

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Microwave ablation has been used for ablating masses by radiologists in many different organs for many years. They have started using this modality in China for several years, safely and effectively. **Case Description:** A nulliparous patient with a large intramural fibroid was avoiding surgery for fear of losing her uterus. This modality was suggested as it would be able to preserve her fertility. The procedure was done under GA with ultrasound guidance. There was only a single small needle entry point for this procedure. The manufacturer who has MDA approval suggested 100W energy for an hour to treat this fibroid. We however modified the procedure by using a single insertion but redirecting the needle for 6 times to ensure the whole fibroid was treated. Each area was treated with 40W energy for much shorter durations as the area around the needle is treated faster as compared to areas much farther away. **Discussion:** This fertility preserving procedure requires expensive machinery but has minimal side effects in the correct hands. With practice much lower doses of energy can be used to achieve optimal treatment with minimal complications. The procedure can be done as daycare. However, there is a delayed response as the tissue damage effect and the shrinking of the uterus takes time. This is because the tissue needs to break down, liquefy before it is being absorbed by the body's healing process. This will now be another option for the patient especially those averse to surgery and keen for fertility.