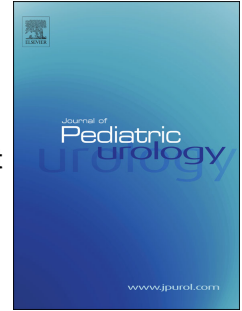


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Commentary to “The implications of fellowship expansion on future pediatric urologist surgical volumes”

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Commentary to “The implications of fellowship expansion on future pediatric urologist surgical volumes”

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The authors used a mathematical model to predict future pediatric urology case volumes based on current 29 fellowship programs graduating 30 fellows per year [1].

The authors made two assumptions that may or may not be correct: (a) that a pediatric urologist career span will be 30 years, and (b) that all programs will match or 30 pediatric urologists will be added to the workforce yearly.

As retirement age for all professions approaches 70 years, many pediatric urologists will have careers that last more than 30 years and therefore their first assumption may be incorrect and their numbers underestimate the reduction in case volumes.

Also, as demand for pediatric urologists has decreased, the number of applicants to pediatric urology fellowship programs has decreased over the past 2 years such that many programs went unmatched. Therefore, the number of pediatric urologists entering the workforce will most likely not be 30 per year but a lower number. If this holds true the authors have overestimated the reduction in case volumes.

The authors also used two models to calculate volumes: one based on the assumption that a percentage of the index cases will be performed by adult urologists and pediatric surgeons and the other based on the assumption that all index cases will be performed by a pediatric urologists. The truth most likely lies in between these two models, as larger numbers of index cases are performed by a pediatric

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