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Women in surgery: A longer term follow-up

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

There are an increasing number of women in surgery. Previously, many questions focused upon their ability to complete surgical training and contribute fully to the surgical workforce. More meaningful information lies in identifying the long-term follow-up of where, and in what specialty, women residents eventually practice.

METHODS

All residents entering general surgery training at the University of Louisville between 1996 and 2009 were studied. Comparison between men and women was performed for program completion, length of residency training, and eventual specialty practice.

RESULTS

One-hundred and eight residents entered surgery residency. Twenty-three (21%) did not complete training. There was no difference in attrition rates between men or women (22% vs. 19%, $p=0.77$). Women completing residency were just as likely to practice general surgery (either private or academic practice) as their male counterparts (67% vs. 67% $p=0.96$).

CONCLUSIONS

Women are a valuable resource in surgery and are able to complete a vigorous residency. Long-term follow-up is crucial and permits us to evaluate this important group of trainees practicing surgery today.

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