



Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Eyelid Surgeries among Surgeons in Nigeria

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author CSE designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors BF and AAO managed the analyses of the study. Author AAO managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To determine the level of knowledge, attitude and practice of eyelid surgeries among surgeons in Nigeria.

Methods: A self-administered questionnaires about their knowledge, attitude and practice of eyelid surgeries were given to 135 medical practitioners attending the 49th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the International College of Surgeons (Nigeria National Section) held in Port Harcourt from 16th to 20th June 2015. Questions asked tested the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the medical practitioners on matters related to eyelid surgeries. Study participants' knowledge, attitude and practice were graded as Good for scores of 75% and above, Fair for 50-74% score and Poor for scores less than 50%. Respondents' demographic data, responses and corresponding scores were entered into computer software-Scientific Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and analysed.

Results: There were 135 responders, out of which 121 (89.62%) were male while 14 (10.38%) were females. They were aged between 21-70 years with a mean value of 51.6 +/- 8.6 years, range = 40 years and mean = 50 years. Specialist surgeons with college fellowship accounted for 84.4%

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while specialist surgeons in training (college membership) accounted for 15.6%. Most of the responders (73.3%) were in public service while 9% were in the private service and 17.7% were in both public and private service. Sixty seven per cent of responders had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries, 22.2% had fair knowledge while 11.1% had poor knowledge. Majority (73.3%) had poor attitude while only 26.7% had good attitude to eyelid surgeries. Responders with poor practice of lid surgeries accounted for 77.8%, fair practice were 13.4% while only 8.8% had good eyelid surgery practice.

Conclusion: Most of our responders were experienced surgeons as shown by their ages, educational and professional status. Though majority of them had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries their attitude and practice of it were poor in spite of their experience in the field of surgery. This could be due to the paucity of oculoplastic surgeons in Nigeria. Measures should therefore be taking to improve on subspecialty training especially in oculoplastic surgery and collaborations should be encouraged amongst surgeons involved in facial surgeries.

Keywords: Knowledge; attitude; eyelid surgeries; practice; oculoplastic surgeons.

1. INTRODUCTION

Most lid disorders are of cosmetic importance and may be unacceptable to patients [1]. Others may also largely affect the patients vision especially in cases of moderate to severe ptosis. Large ones may require surgical or medical intervention [2]. Common eyelid disorders include ptosis, lacerations, tumours, blepharospasms, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion, lid retraction etc [2].

The treatment modalities available include tarsofrontalis sling surgery, levator resection for ptosis, lid reconstruction for disfiguring tumours and some lacerations, electrolysis for trichiasis, Jones procedure for entropion, levator recession for lid retraction, various ectropion surgeries, Botox injections for bilateral essential blepharospasm and facial aesthetics [3].

Unfortunately, there are not too many oculoplastic surgeons who are trained to surgically handle eyelid disorders [4]. Therefore, other surgeons are found to be attempting eyelid surgeries [4]. These may sometimes end up with poor or unsatisfactory outcomes especially if they are not well abreast with the anatomical orientation.

This study is therefore aimed at determining the degree of involvement of Nigerian surgeons in eyelid surgeries in order to make recommendations that will improve the knowledge, attitude and practice of eyelid surgeries in our environment [5].

Patients are becoming more aware of the different medical subspecialties and advancements in the various fields especially plastic surgery [6]. Eyelid surgeons should

therefore be at the top of their game to be able to satisfy their patients. There are studies about awareness of facial plastic surgeries in the general population but limited studies among health professionals [7]. A study by Park et al suggests that general practitioners are knowledgeable about plastic surgery but no mention was made about lid surgeons [8]. Seeking to look good is natural to man and he achieves this through improvement of appearance especially when there are defects or deformities [9]. Ocular plastic surgery has grown as a subspecialty to meet this need and it is concerned with improving the facial aesthetics of individuals [9]. There has been a growing interest in the past few years in cosmetic procedures but the lack of data has not enhanced its popularity [10]. The lack of available information in our environment necessitated our resolve to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of eyelid surgeries among surgeons in Nigeria [5].

2. METHODS

A self-administered questionnaire about their knowledge, attitude and practice of eyelid surgeries were given to 135 medical practitioners attending the 49th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the International College of Surgeons (Nigeria National Section) held in Port Harcourt from 16th to 20th June 2015. Questions asked tested the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the medical practitioners on matters related to eyelid surgeries. Study participants' knowledge, attitude and practice were graded as Good for scores of 75% and above, Fair for 50-74% score and Poor for scores less than 50%. Respondents' demographic data, responses and corresponding

scores were entered into computer software-Scientific Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and analysed.

3. RESULTS

Most of the responders (73.33%) were between 41-60 years with more men (89.62%).

One hundred and fourteen (84.4%) were already specialists while 21 (15.6%) were still in training to become specialists.

Specialist surgeons accounted for 68.9% followed by general surgeons (13.3%), general practitioners (11.1%), senior registrars (4.4%) and specialist physicians (2.3%).

Those in the public service accounted for 73.3% followed by those in both public and private service (17.7%) and those in private service accounted for only 9%.

Most of the responders had their practice in the urban areas.

Majority of responders (66.7%) had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries, 22.2% had fair knowledge while 11.1% had poor knowledge.

Majority (73.3%) had poor attitude while 26.7% had good attitude to eyelid surgeries.

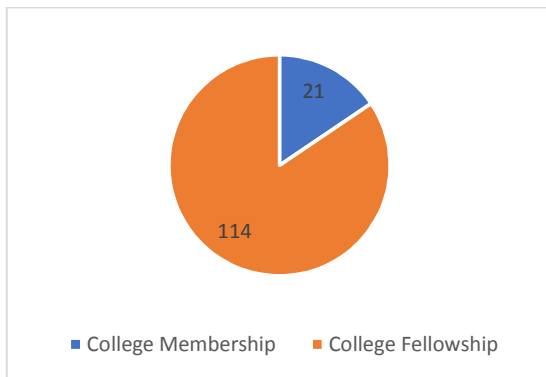


Fig. 1. Educational status of study participants

Majority (77.8%) had poor practice of eyelid surgeries 13.4% had fair practice while only 8.8% had good practice.

4. DISCUSSION

Majority of responders in our series were between 41-60 years because this study sought to target specialists whose training take a long

time to achieve experience and expertise, see Table 1. There may be the need to introduce the study of oculoplastic surgery early in medical training in order to sufficiently expose surgeons to the practice of it.

There were also more males because there are more male doctors in our environment [7,11].

Our target population were surgeons and this explains why we had 84.4% of responders having college fellowship and 68.9% being specialist surgeons. This compares with the work done in Lagos by Adeyemo [12].

Majority of responders work in the public service (73.3%) located in the urban areas because this is where most specialists practice [13]. This is where the best equipped facilities are found and most of the medical trainers practice.

Most of the responders (66.7%) had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries because they are surgeons while only a few (11.1%) had poor knowledge of the subject. Majority (73.3%) had poor attitude towards eyelid surgeries while only 26.7% had good attitude to the subject. Good knowledge about eye lid surgeries does not translate to good attitude towards it; this is also collaborated by the study by Adeyemo [12]. Only 12% had good practice of eyelid surgeries probably because there are very few oculoplastic surgeons in Nigeria. Good practice is a product of training, retraining and regular exposure to relevant cases [4]. There was only one in the whole of South-South Nigeria at the time of this study. This emphasizes the importance of subspecialty training especially in oculoplastic surgery.

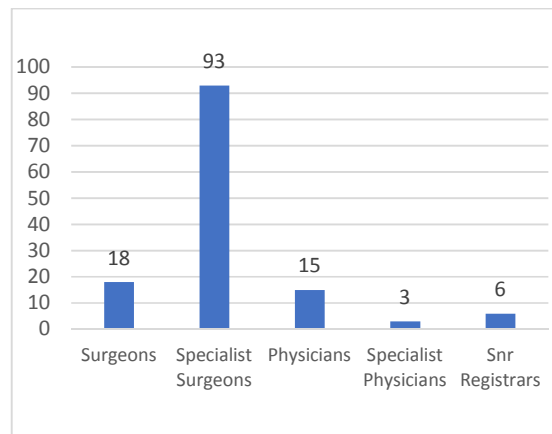


Fig. 2. Professional status of study participants

Table 1. Age-Gender distribution of the respondents

Age group	Gender		Total (%)
	Male (%)	Female (%)	
21-30	1 (0.83)	2 (14.28)	3 (2.24)
31-40	12(9.92)	3 (21.43)	15 (11.11)
41-50	48 (39.67)	6 (42.86)	54 (40.0)
51-60	42 (34.70)	3 (21.43)	45 (33.33)
61-70	18 (14.88)	0 (00)	18 (13.34)
Total	121 (100)	14 (100)	13 (100)

Mean age= 51.6±8.6 years, Range = 40 years. Mode= 50 years

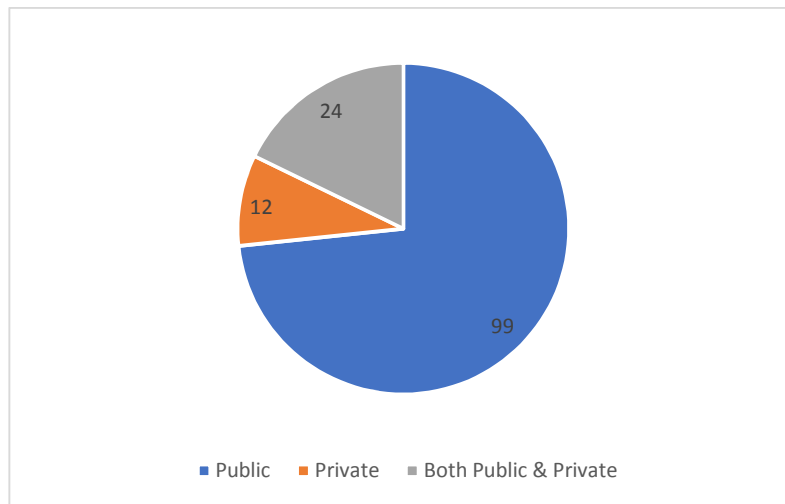


Fig. 3. Practice sector of study participants

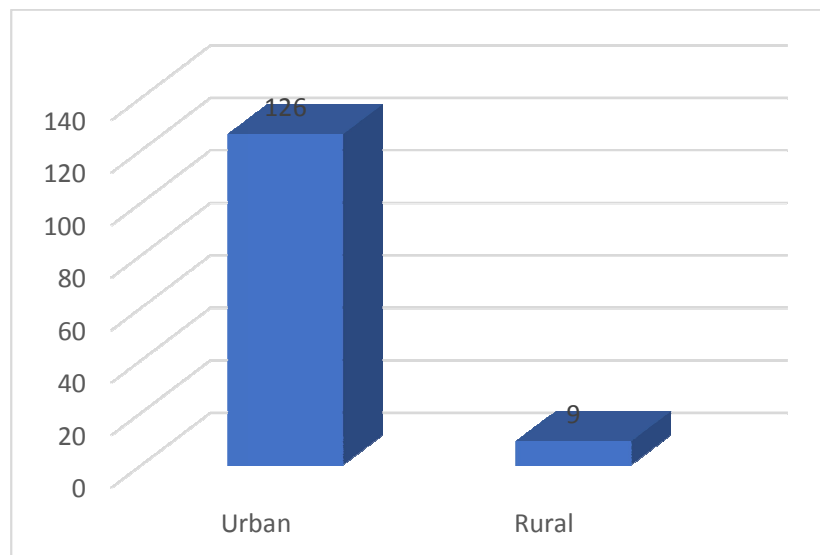


Fig. 4. Location of practice areas of study participants

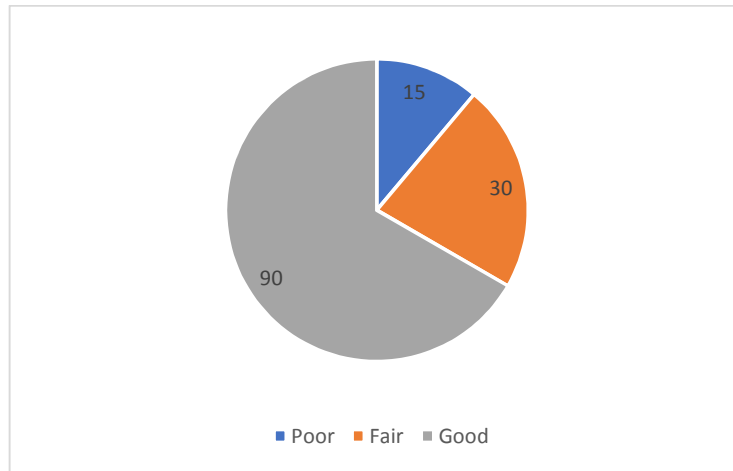


Fig. 5. Knowledge of participants in Eyelid surgeries

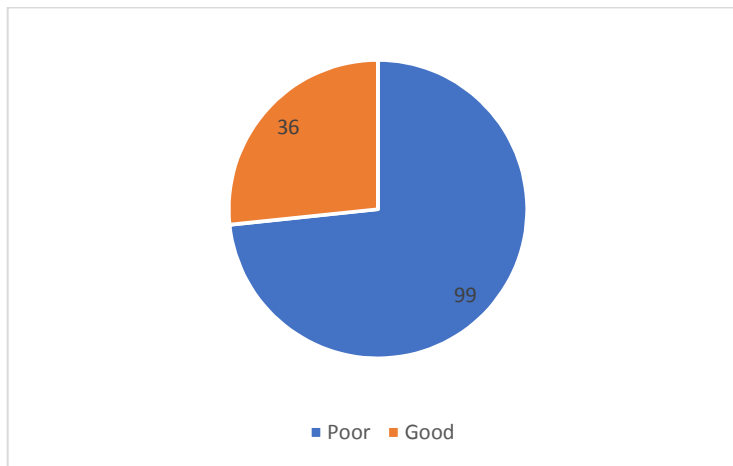


Fig. 6. Attitude of participants in eyelid surgeries

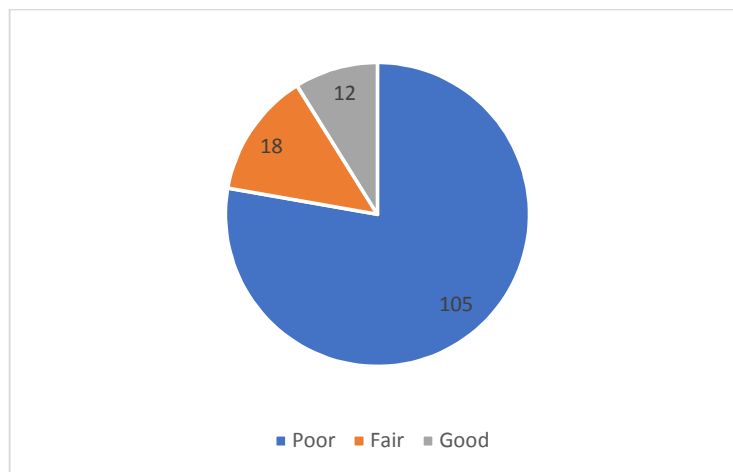


Fig. 7. Practice of study participants in eyelid surgeries

5. CONCLUSION

Most of our responders were experienced surgeons as shown by their ages, educational and professional status. Though majority of them had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries their attitude and practice of it were poor in spite of their experience. This could be due to the paucity of oculoplastic surgeons in Nigeria. Measures should therefore be taking to improve on subspecialty training especially in oculoplastic surgery and collaborations should be encouraged amongst surgeons involved in facial surgeries.

CONSENT AND ETHICAL APPROVAL

As per university standard guideline participant consent and ethical approval has been collected and preserved by the authors.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF EYELID SURGERIES AMONG SURGEONS IN NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

This KAP survey intends to find out the gaps in the practice of eyelid surgeries among surgeons in Nigeria with a view to improving the practice of the profession. Participation is voluntary, anonymous and non-attributable. The collected data would be strictly used for research purposes. Please tick as appropriate.

Section A. Socio-Demographics

1. Age in years 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71 and above
2. Sex Male Female
3. Education MBBS College Member College Fellow Others (Specify)
4. Professional Status Surgeon Specialist Surgeon Physician
Specialist Physician Dentist Specialist Dentist Senior Resident Junior Resident
5. Sector of Practice Public Private
6. Location of Practice Urban Rural
7. How many years have you been in practice 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 25-30 30 and above

Section B. Knowledge

Answer Code: a) True b)False C) I don't Know d)Undecided

s/n	Question	a	b	c	d
1	Eyelid surgery may be indicated in emergency				
2	Eyelid surgery may be indicated for cosmetics				
3	Eyelid surgery may relieve patients of poor vision				
4	Eyelid surgery may be required to save life				
5	The patient reserves the right to refuse eyelid surgery despite the benefits				
6	Z-Plasty is a modality of eyelid surgery				
7	Orbital Cellulitis is a possible complication				
8	Cavernous Thrombosis is a possible complication				
9	Eye lid surgeries can be performed under Local Anaesthesia				

In your opinion, who should perform eye lid surgeries

Optometrist Nurse General Practitioner General Surgeon Plastic Surgeon
Ophthalmologist

Section C. Attitude

S/N	Question	a	b	c	d
1	Cosmetic rehabilitation is essential in eye lid surgeries				
2	I would recommend eye lid surgery for all patients with eye lid injuries				
3	Eye lid surgery is more important for the younger than for the older patients				
4	Eye lid surgery is more important for female than for male patients				

Section D: Practice

1. Have you performed eyelid surgery in the past? Yes No
2. Have you offered eye lid surgery to any patient? Yes No
3. The problem of eye lid surgeries is poor cosmetic outcome Yes No
4. A challenge I face in eye lid surgery is the choice of the size and material of sutures Yes No
5. A challenge I face in eye lid surgery is learning the technique Yes No
6. A challenge I face in eye lid surgery is complications in the procedure
Yes No
7. How many eye lid surgeries have you done 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 25-30 30 and above

Thank you for your time.

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