

### **The Future of Emergency Surgery**

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#### **Abstract**

*Introduction:* Over the past three decades, there has been a recognised need for emergency surgery (ES). Studies of ES have demonstrated variation in patient outcomes depending on admission time or day. ES as a subspecialty is still under consideration in Europe despite being recognised as such in the US. This article reviews this need and addresses the issues required to develop ES as a separate surgical subspecialty in Europe.

*Method:* A survey on ES was developed by the Educational Committee of the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES) and sent to all ESTES members with 102 responses received.

*Results:* Of the responses, 93.1% had completed training. 75.3% of respondents report that ES should be a recognised subspecialty and 79% report that ES is capable of offering a rewarding career. 90% report that ES should have dedicated post-graduate training programme with 69.8% in agreement that dedicated emergency surgeons have improved outcomes following ES.

*Conclusion:* Developing ES as a subspecialty in Europe would improve patient outcomes and facilitate resource allocation. This advancement is, however, still in its infancy and its evolution would require overhaul of our current European system, training methods and understanding of the role of emergency surgeons in ES.

**Key words:** emergency surgery, subspecialisation, ringlemann effect