

Supplementary Table 1: COREQ checklist

Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity		Location in manuscript (Section, page no.)
Personal Characteristics		
1. Interviewer/facilitator Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	JS	Methods - 4
2. Credentials What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	BSc MBBS MRCS FHEA PhD	Title page - 1
3. Occupation What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Specialty Registrar & Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Surgery	Methods 4
4. Gender Was the researcher male or female?	Male	-
5. Experience and training What experience or training did the researcher have?	At the time of the interviews, was in the late stages of completing MEd where principles of qualitative research were covered in detail.	-
Relationship with participants		
6. Relationship established Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	Yes	-
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	Participants were briefed on the purpose of the study and understood that it was a research project for JS MEd. Educational ethical approval had been granted, participants reviewed the participant information documentation prior to giving their written informed consent to be involved.	-
8. Interviewer characteristics What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic	JS is a surgical trainee which was a potential source of bias. No other interviewer-related biases identified.	Discussion - 11
Domain 2: study design		
Theoretical framework		
9. Methodological orientation and Theory What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis	Open and axial coding with thematic content analysis.	Methods – 4-5
Participant selection		
10. Sampling How were participants selected? e.g.	Recruited via email	Methods - 4

purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	using surgical trainee mailing lists. The first ten respondents were subsequently invited for a semi-structured interview.	
11. Method of approach How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email	Email	Methods - 4
12. Sample size How many participants were in the study?	Ten	Results - 5
13. Non-participation How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	Of the first ten respondents that were invited for a semi-structured interview, all gave informed consent and completed the interview. There were no participants who subsequently refused to participate, withdrew consent or dropped out.	-
Setting		
14. Setting of data collection Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace	Data was collected via Skype or in non-clinical professional location e.g. meeting room in a conference centre or university.	-
15. Presence of non-participants Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	No	-
16. Description of sample What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date	Age range 29-36; 6 males, 4 females. Level of training ranged from Core-trainee year 2 to Specialty trainee year 7. Data was collected between 20 th March 2014 and 27 th April 2014	Table 1
Data collection		
17. Interview guide Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Interviews were semi-structured using a schedule (Figure 1); follow up questions were allowed. Participants were also asked to bring two procedure based assessment they considered favourable and two	Methods - 4

	they considered unfavourable to be used as prompts.	
18. Repeat interviews Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	No	-
19. Audio/visual recording Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	The semi-structured interviews were audio recorded using a laptop. This allowed audio recording of face-to-face and Skype interviews by the same method.	-
20. Field notes Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	No additional field notes were made.	-
21. Duration What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	The semi-structured interview durations ranged from 13:45 to 59:29 (minutes : seconds)	Table 1
22. Data saturation Was data saturation discussed?	No	-
23. Transcripts returned Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	No	-
Domain 3: analysis and findings		
Data analysis		
24. Number of data coders How many data coders coded the data?	One	-
25. Description of the coding tree Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	Open and axial coding. Coding described in methods section.	Methods - 4
26. Derivation of themes Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Themes were derived from the data	Methods – 4-5
27. Software What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	Microsoft Word and Excel	-
28. Participant checking Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	No	-
Reporting		
29. Quotations presented Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number	Yes, specific comments were supported with direct quotes attributed to anonymised participant by stage of training and surgical specialty	Results – 5-11
30. Data and findings consistent Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes	-
31. Clarity of major themes Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes	-
32. Clarity of minor themes	Minor themes are	Supplementary

Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	discussed in the manuscript and reported in full in the supplementary material accompanying the manuscript.	materials
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