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

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ABSTRACT

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

Study design: Knowledge, attitude and practice – KAP study

Place and Duration of Study: Study was carried out in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, at an annual general meeting of the International College of Surgeons from the 16th to 20th of June 2015.

Methodology. 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.

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% 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 taken to improve on subspecialty training especially in oculoplastic surgery, and collaborations should be encouraged amongst surgeons involved in facial surgeries.

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Keywords: Eyelid surgeries, Oculoplastic Surgery, Surgeons, Nigeria.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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Most lid disorders are of cosmetic importance and may be unacceptable to patients¹. Others may also largely affect the patients vision especially in cases of moderate to severe ptosis. Large ones may require surgical or medical intervention². Common eyelid disorders include ptosis, lacerations, tumours, blepharospasms, trichiasis, entropion, ectropion, lid retraction etc².

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The treatment modalities available include tarso frontalis 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 aesthetics³.

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Unfortunately, there are not too many oculoplastic surgeons who are trained to surgically handle eyelid disorders⁴. Therefore, other surgeons are found to be attempting eyelid surgeries⁴. These may sometimes end up with poor or unsatisfactory outcomes especially if they are not well abreast with the anatomical orientation.

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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 environment⁵.

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Patients are becoming more aware of the different medical subspecialties and advancements in the various fields especially plastic surgery⁶. 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 professionals⁷. A study by Park et al suggests that general practitioners are knowledgeable about plastic surgery but no mention was made about lid surgeons⁸. Seeking

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48 to look good is natural to man and he achieves this through improvement of appearance
 49 especially when there are defects or deformities⁹. Ocular plastic surgery has grown as a
 50 subspecialty to meet this need and it is concerned with improving the facial aesthetics of
 51 individuals⁹. There has been a growing interest in the past few years in cosmetic procedures
 52 but the lack of data has not enhanced its popularity¹⁰. The lack of available information in our
 53 environment necessitated our resolve to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of
 54 eyelid surgeries among surgeons in Nigeria⁵.

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2. METHODOLOGY

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

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3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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)	135 (100)

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

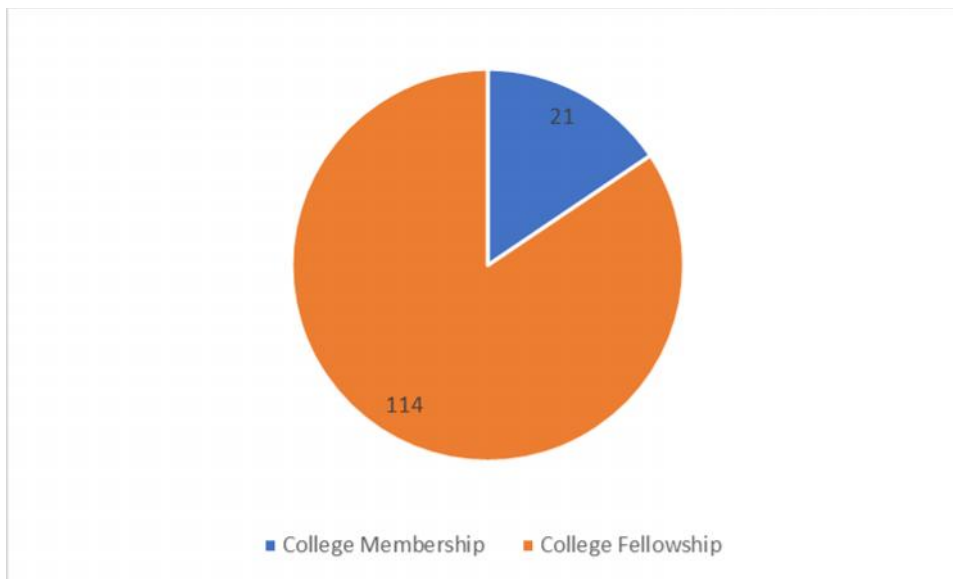
73 Most of the responders (73.33%) were between 41-60 years with more men (89.62%)

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77 Figure 1: Educational Status of Study Participants



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

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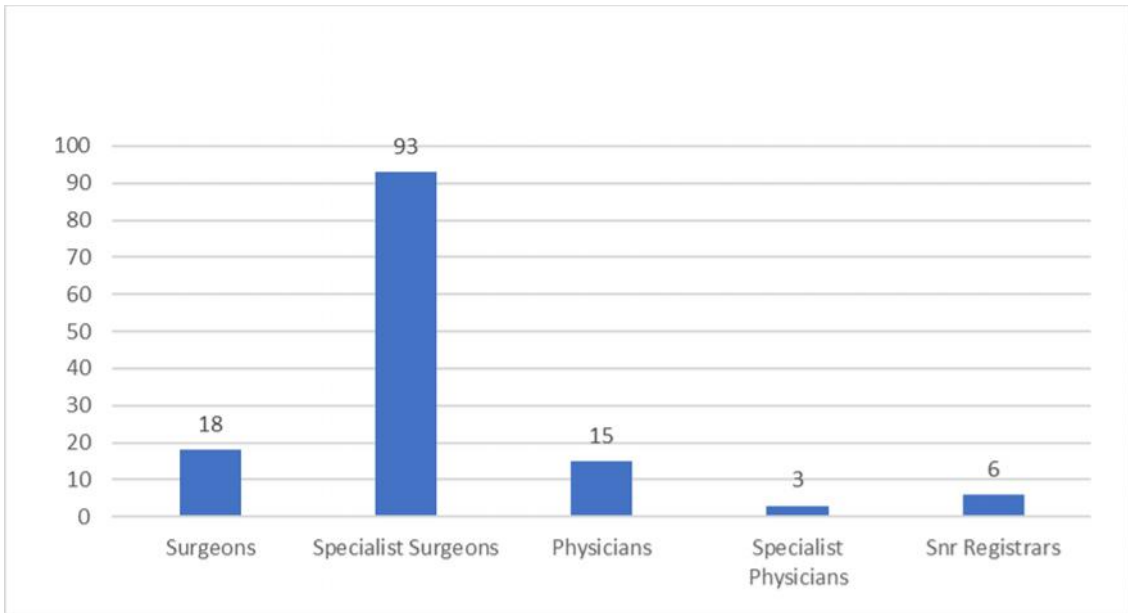
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86 Figure 2: Professional Status of Study Participants

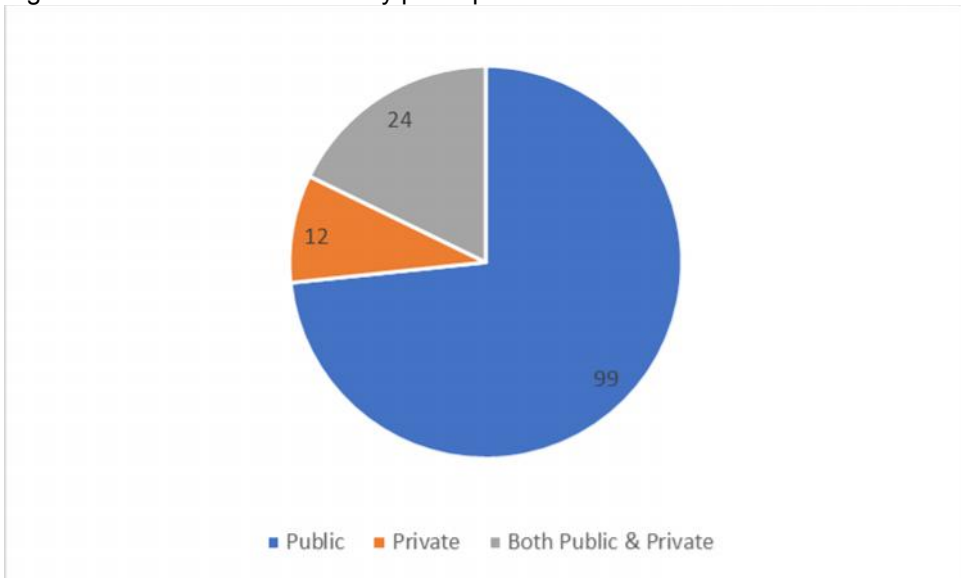
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Specialist surgeons accounted for 68.9% followed by general surgeons (13.3%), general practitioners (11.1%), senior registrars (4.4%) and specialist physicians (2.3%).

Figure 3: Practice sector of study participants

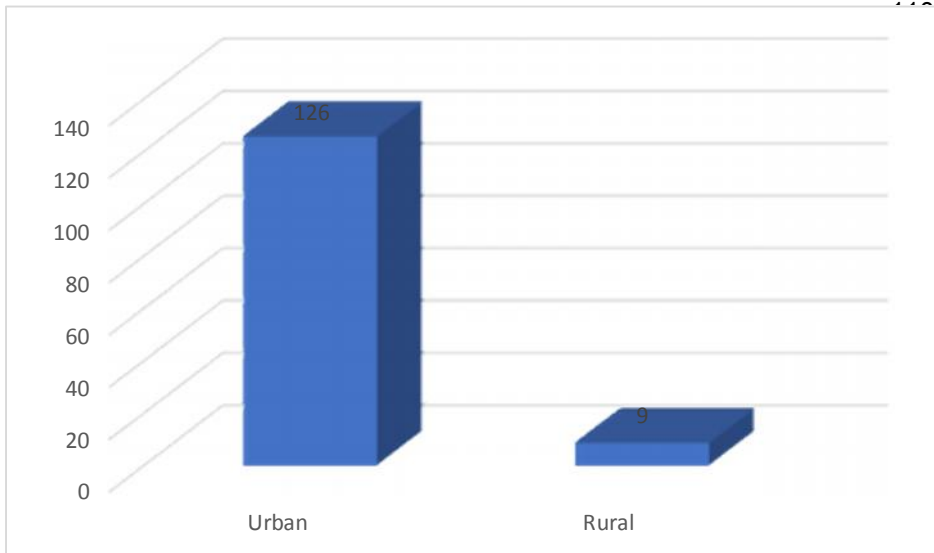


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Those in the public service accounted for 73.3% followed by those in both public and private service (17.7%) and those in private service accounted for only 9 %.

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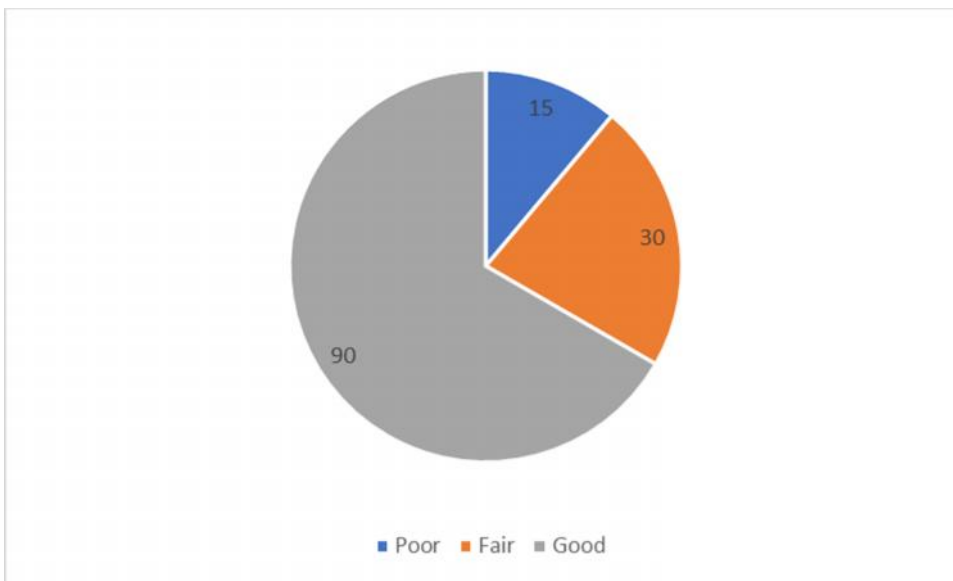
Figure 4: Location of Practice Areas of study participants



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

Figure 5: Knowledge of Participants in Eyelid surgeries

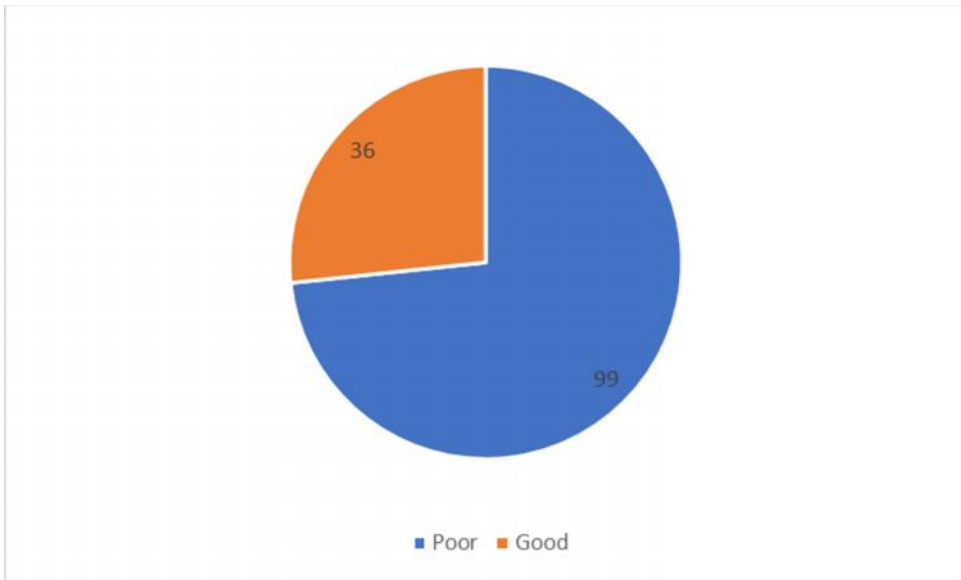


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123 Majority of responders (66.7%) had good knowledge of eyelid surgeries, 22.2% had fair
124 knowledge while 11.1% had poor knowledge.

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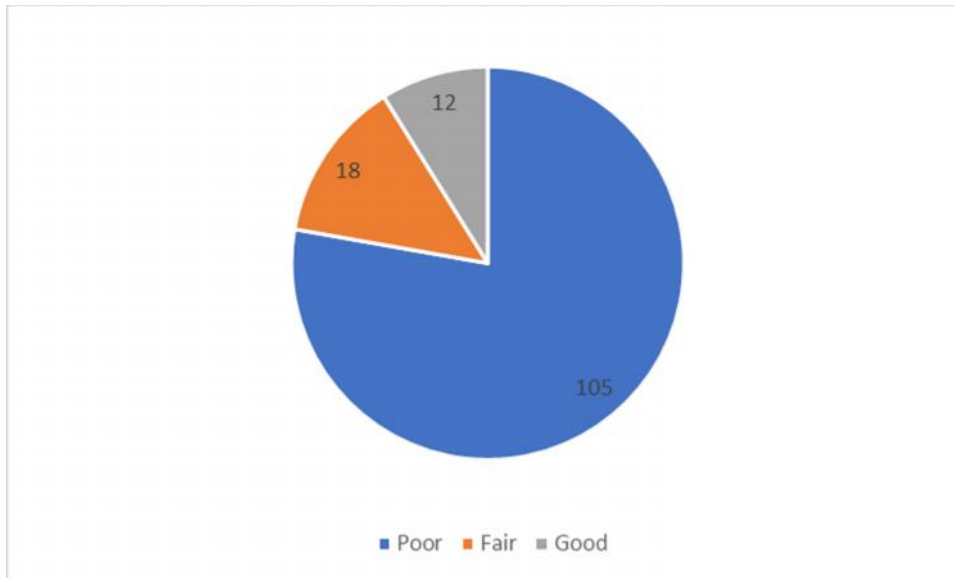
Figure 6: Attitude of Participants in eyelid surgeries



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

Figure 7: Practice of Study participants in eyelid surgeries



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

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 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

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. Only 12% had good practice of eyelid surgeries probably because there are very few oculoplastic surgeons in Nigeria. 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.

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185 **4. CONCLUSION**

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

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197 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

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199 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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202 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

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204 **Ejimadu SC** wrote the first draft of the manuscript and managed the literature search.
205 **Fiebai B** designed the study and wrote the protocol. **Onua AA** performed and managed the
206 statistical analysis of the study.

207 All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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