

## Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Medical Ethics Amongst Paediatric Surgeons and Trainees in Malaysia

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**Abstract :** INTRODUCTION: The ethical considerations and professional obligations pertaining to surgeons carry greater gravity in comparison to those related to other practitioners, as surgeons perform procedures on patients that could lead to the immediate death of the patients if not done correctly, what more in paediatric surgical practice. This study aimed to determine the level of KAP regarding medical ethics among paediatric surgeons and trainees in Malaysia. METHODS: This was a cross-sectional study involving three groups of samples, i.e., paediatric surgeons, paediatric surgical trainees, and medical officers with a special interest in paediatric surgery. A previously available validated KAP questionnaire involving general surgical trainees was used. Indexes for knowledge, attitude, and practice were calculated using a standard formula for each sample group and compared for significance;  $p$  less than 0.05 is taken as significant. The index is rated from poor to excellent using a score of 0 to 10. A score index of 5.00 to 6.99 is considered as good. RESULTS: A total of 117 participants were involved in this study: 38.5% were paediatric surgeons ( $n = 45$ ), 21.3% were paediatric surgical trainees ( $n = 25$ ), and 40.2% were medical officers with a special interest in paediatric surgery ( $n = 47$ ). There were 48.7% male and 51.3% female respondents; the mean age was 36.1 years. 49.6% had not read the book 'Code of Medical Ethics', and only 12.9% owned a copy of the book. Nevertheless, in each group of samples, the score index for knowledge, attitude, and practice was within 5.00 to 6.99, except for trainee in paediatric surgery, where the score index for attitude was 4.82 (fair) and the score index for practice was 7.14 (very good). However, these differences were not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). CONCLUSION: The study proved that our local paediatric surgeons, medical officers, and trainees in paediatric surgery exhibited a noteworthy level of KAP in medical ethics.

**Keywords :** KAP, medical ethics, paediatric, surgeons, trainees

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