

Overcoming Challenges to Practicing Orthopedic Surgery in India

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Abstract:

As a third-year medical student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, I participated in an orthopedic surgery global health rotation at Sravani Hospital, a multispecialty hospital in Guntur, India. There, I worked with Dr. Sitaramanjaneyulu who is the only orthopedic surgeon at the hospital and practices all subspecialties. I will be describing challenges to practicing orthopedic surgery in India and several strategies I have seen to overcome them. The biggest challenge is limited access to care and lack of resources in the outpatient, consult, and operative environments. Other challenges include a high workload with an increased risk of burnout, language barriers, and providing equitable care while using a predominantly out-of-pocket payment model. The intent is to raise awareness of how challenges while working in a surgical specialty can be overcome with creative, cost-effective solutions. I will also utilize this opportunity to compare and contrast my experience in the field of orthopedic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with my experience at Sravani Hospital.