

Participant's conceptions of learning anatomy in surgery and refinement of basic surgical exposure skills were identified as a key learning outcome. The reasons for joining the course were multi-faceted and related to lack of open-surgical opportunities in training, improving basic tissue handling and advancing experience to make the individual competitive for training programmes.

SE028P
ANATOMY OF SURGICAL EXPOSURE COURSE: DOES IT ADD TO TRAINEE EXPERIENCES?

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The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons lists 11 accredited postgraduate anatomy courses in Australia and New Zealand. These courses vary in their teaching syllabus, length and emphasis. The anatomy of surgical exposure (ASE) course held by James Cook University in conjunction with the Northern Clinical Training Network is unique among the anatomy courses in that it covers an entire operative surgical curriculum in open general surgery on cadavers. Understanding reasons, expectations and outcomes of participants can better inform the educational debate relating to anatomy teaching and help meet the training and educational needs of surgical trainees.

An exploratory approach, using in depth phone interviews was used to understand the 2016 ASE course cohort ideas and perceptions on how surgical anatomy teaching improved their learning and careers.