

PERSPECTIVE ARTICLE

Which Clinical field should I choose for my post-graduation?

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When a student enters a medical school, he/she is very happy. This is a natural thing as entry into a medical school is a great reason to be happy for all those who wanted to become doctors since the time immemorial! After all, this student has surpassed many others who were just not lucky/fortunate this time to get entry into the medical school. But as the time passes, the medical student comes to know about the hardships of this profession. There is a lot of confusion among the students regarding the specialization field which they are going to pursue in the coming years. They discuss among themselves the pros and cons of each field, the future perspectives of every field, the work load of different fields, etc. Another common problem among Asian medical students is their doubt regarding pursuing a post-graduation residency in foreign medical schools.

A person's interests and preferences change with the time and same is true while choosing a specialization branch. A student who is interested in surgery in first year (may be

because of anatomy dissection classes) may not like surgery in the final year when he has actually experienced that subject. A student who is interested in pediatrics just because he/she thinks that children are cute may not like this subject when he/she experiences the hard work a pediatrician has to put in to treat a sick crying child. So the point is that - only and only interest in a particular subject is not the sole criteria for choosing your field of specialty. Obviously you should never choose a field just for money and having no interest in it. But the confusion arises when you have interest in more than one field and you can't decide which one is best for you. And then you go to internet, join the medical blog sites/forums, etc. and just spend nights googling about the future of a field.

To give you some relief, I have developed an algorithm (THE KAJAL ALGORITHM ©) which will surely help you in deciding what you actually want. I have made this algorithm after a fair amount of study related to pros and cons of every field. It has two parts – Part 1 and Part 2.

Part 1 is completely based on choosing a field according to your interest and Part 2 helps you in deciding a field according to some other factors apart from your interest which should be considered while choosing a specialization field for post-graduation. The algorithm will help you in deciding your future specialty and moreover it's a fun exercise which you can share with your friends as well. All the best for your future!

References

1. All India Post Graduate Medical Counselling Round 1 result, 2014. Available from : <http://mcc.nic.in/MCCReg/ArchiveDownload.aspx>

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