

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We commend the authors for their efforts at coordinating this international survey. Whereas a mere 3% of residents viewed robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy as the gold standard in 2006, 40% of all participants herein viewed it as such.¹ But as with all survey based studies, these conclusions are limited by biases which the authors readily acknowledge. It would be interesting to see a subanalysis of participant opinion based upon urologic subspecialty, level of practice or regionality. Also, the specific titles of the conferences queried are important, as they provide insight into possible selection biases.

Unfortunately, as only 38% of respondents have operated at the robotic console, participants' perceptions are by and large not those of the urologic robotic surgeon. This may or may not be a strength, as an onlooker's opinion is relatively protected from the bias of personal experience. As such, the conclusions, while thought-provoking, are neither those of the expert surgeon nor the greater urologic community.

References

1. Donias HW, Karamanoukian RL, Glick PL, Bergsland J, Karamanoukian HL. Survey of resident training in robotic surgery. *Am Surg* 2002;68(2):177-181.

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