

Training in Functional Urology and Urodynamics: Which is the situation among residents and young urologists in Spain?

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Introduction

- Functional Urology (FU) is a **superspecialty** in Urology related with lower urinary tract symptoms.
- It is essential for every urologist to **have a good training** in this area.
- The **aim of this study** is to describe the situation in Spain nowadays regarding the training in Functional Urology and Urodynamics and to identify possible shortcomings.

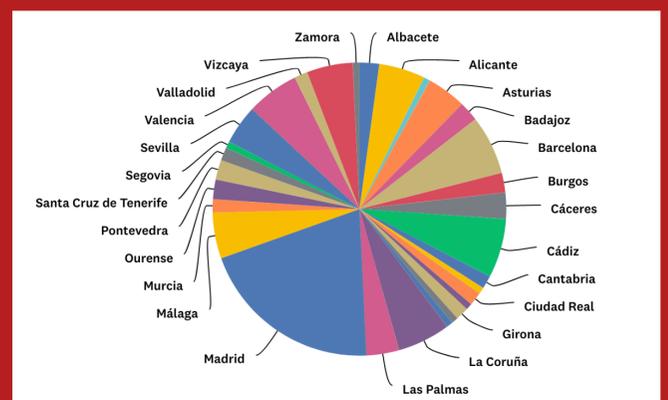
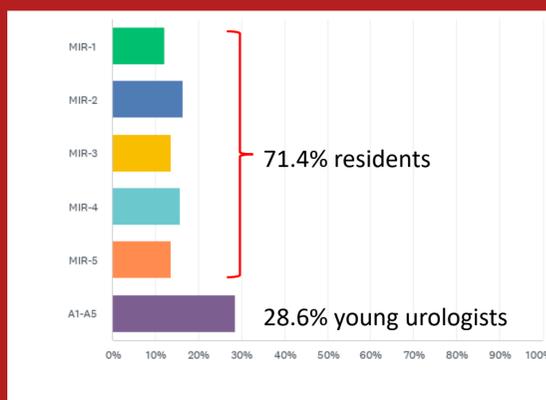
Study design, Materials and Methods

- **Transversal, descriptive design.**
- A survey with 30 questions was created using the platform SurveyMonkey®. From **January 16th to March 28th, 2022.**
- **Social media and the mailing list** of the Residents' Group of the Spanish Association of Urology.
- **Inclusion criteria: being resident or young urologist** (consultant within the first 5 years of experience).

Results

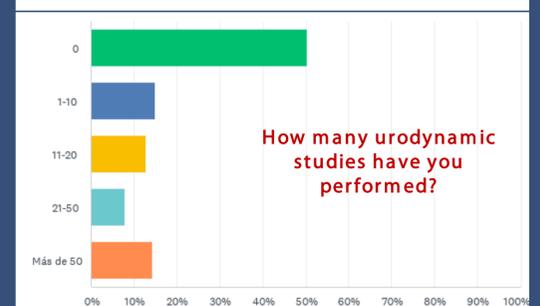
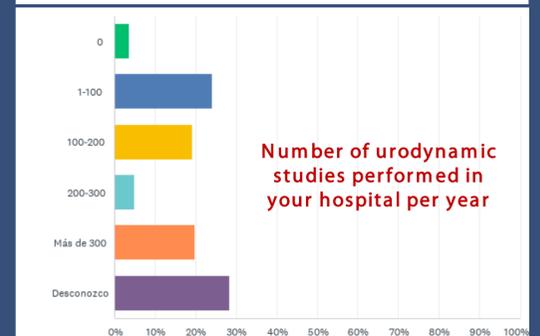
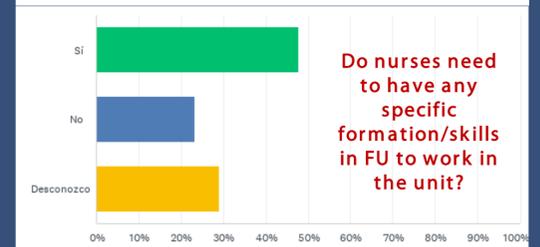
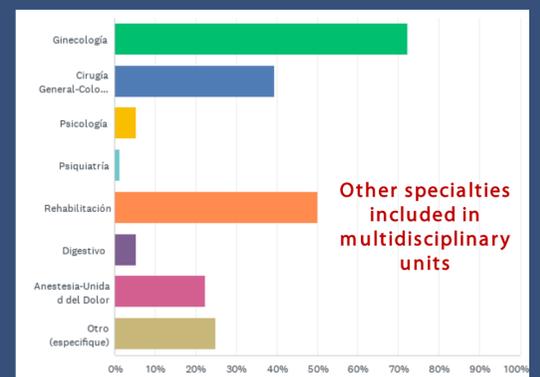
141 responders

- **56% female**
- **43% male**
- **1% not informed**



Functional Urology Units in Spain

- 74.3% of respondents have a specialised FU unit in their hospital, and 82.1% of these units have dedicated specialised consultants in FU.
- 44% of hospitals have a multidisciplinary unit for functional disorders, but only a 47.8% of them have a nurse specialised in FU.
- The number of urodynamic studies (UDS) performed in each unit is highly variable.
- **Posterior tibial nerve stimulation** is performed in 53.9% of hospitals.
- **Botulinum toxin** is injected in 95.7% of the departments.
- Any FU surgery is done at least once a year in **96.5%** of the departments.
- 31.4% perform 10-20 transobturator or retropubic mid-urethral sling surgeries each year, 24.3% perform 20-50 and 11.4% more than 50.
- Surgical correction of **pelvic organ prolapse** is performed by Urology in 66.7% of hospitals, Gynaecology in 60.3%, and Uro&Gynaecology together in 16.3% of cases.
- **Devices for male urinary incontinence** are implanted in 87.94% of the hospitals, 45.5% perform between 1-10 each year.



Training in Functional Urology during the residency

- FU training is given by superspecialised consultants in 51.8% of cases.
- **55% of respondents don't have FU training** neither theoretical, nor practical. Theoretical courses have been undergone by 44% of respondents, but 40% have never done one; furthermore, 85% haven't attended an accredited course.
- **50.35% have never done an UDS**, 38.3% (n=54) have implanted ≤10 slings and 70.2% have never performed an artificial urinary sphincter (AUS) surgery.
- A Likert scale between 0 and 5 was designed to ask about the **self-confidence** in the completion of three common procedures in FU: for UDS and sling surgery it was in average 2.6, but for AUS it was 1,9.
- The last question, only intended to be answered by residents, asked about the interest in getting superspecialised in FU: **49.6% considered it attractive**, **60.2% do like the functional surgery**, and **50.4% don't have an opinion**; however, **57.7% don't like the patient profile**.

Are you confident enough to perform by yourself a urodynamic study?

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	PROMEDIO PONDERADO
☆	30.94%	23.74%	17.27%	15.83%	12.23%	139	2.55
	43	33	24	22	17		

Are you confident enough to perform by yourself a midurethral tape surgery?

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	PROMEDIO PONDERADO
☆	32.61%	17.39%	21.74%	15.22%	13.04%	138	2.59
	45	24	30	21	18		

Are you confident enough to perform by yourself an artificial urinary sphincter?

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	PROMEDIO PONDERADO
☆	59.56%	12.50%	15.44%	8.09%	4.41%	136	1.85
	81	17	21	11	6		

Conclusion

Functional Urology is an important and attractive specialty for residents, but shortcomings are found when analysing the number of procedures performed. It is worth underlining the **poor confidence** of the respondents in the performance of the activities related with the superspecialty.