

INDEPENDENCE, INTERDEPENDENCE, OR BOTH (ITS UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE)



**"Foolish who learn from his mistakes,
he should from the mistakes of the
others"**

(English Proverb)



T A Hamdan

FRCS, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Dean-College of Medicine, University of Basrah.

Editorial

Surgical practice or carrier is never easy and lately becoming more and more difficult and complicated. Obviously, this is due to the recent advances and modern achievement, which is helping the patient in curing his complicated illness. But on the other end, it is creating confusions and headache to both the young and the experienced Surgeons, to the extent that sometimes it is intolerable.

No one no matter how clever and wise can be even an average Surgeon by simply reading huge Surgical textbooks, so we can confidently say that a trainer, supervisor or escort is a must for a junior to build up experience and to step up the ladder.

So Surgery is not a science to be learned by reading, memorizing and writing only. A courage is mandatory before practicing surgery but this courage usually comes from the person who stand behind the curtain, giving advice and support by all sorts of communications, throughout the whole day, a situation which is highly appreciated by the juniors and should not be forgotten for life.

Surgical carriers got so many specifications and a good Surgeon should fulfill all the requirement. At least he should have a heart of a lion; a finger of fine lady and eyes of an eagle, and on the top of all sits the wisdom.

The young may be clever but he is not wise, wisdom is not in born, it usually gained by experience, but experience is often painful. So offering the painful experience to the junior is a real generous offer, and never little. A good example is a typical or odd presentation of diseases.

Acute closed angle glaucoma may present with cardinal clinical features of acute abdomen, a funny situation. Odd or unexpected presentation may confuse, disturb or even creates so many troubles to the junior staff. Because it is not written in books, he did not come across it one day, and he has no idea what to do about it. In this case, experience stand to show itself, it is hold in the brain of the experienced, he can solve it easily. So interdependence comes into action again and always.

The experienced Surgeon should never hesitate to offer his golden experience to his dear junior staff under any condition. We are supposed to learn everyday as far as we are enjoying our dear carrier and living in the school of life.

Every surgeon no matter how experienced, he is bound to make mistakes, this is simply because perfection is beyond the reach of even the most wise and experienced surgeon, to reduce this, the answer is interdependence.

The junior and trainee, should go through a staged conventional training under a very strict supervision for every step, he should be guided well, so he is dependent on his senior, solely. Moreover, he is making use of his name to build up his own personal experience hence the importance of being thankful, honest and faithful so that he can get more and more generous offer free of charge.

Sadly, after graduation most of the juniors become independent very soon, with a false feeling of being able to solve all the problems over a cup of tea or coffee. But sooner or later this feeling will collapse after facing a stormy situation, which is useful for telling him his real status, though bitter on so many occasions.

So this lesson is enough to tell him that he should go back to the interdependent practice. Independent practice certainly helps in building strong surgical personality which is needed for wise judgement and critical decision making.

A good Surgical practice dictates that neither independence nor interdependence are good always, both are faulty or even sometimes dangerous.

Fair enough to be independent when he is pretty sure of your foot step, when he feel that there is no doubt about his decision, the decision is made on a solid basis, and nothing to be gained buy sharing opinion. Also it is fair enough to ask for a second or even a third opinion, whenever you are in doubt.

We have to remember that interdependent practice is always very useful, very safe but may lead to a real dependency which may destroy the surgical personality.

Depending on the above short sentences we can conclude that the best Surgical carrier comes through being independent sometimes and interdependent always, we should try our best to steel the experience of superior colleagues.

Finally, the best taste comes after mixing honey with milk rather than drinking each one of them alone.