

Interventions and Experiences Impacting Medical Student Exposure to Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Rebecca A. Zasloff,¹ MPH, Jessica Goodwin,² BS, Tariq M. Omer,¹ MA, Michael Mensah-Mamfo,¹ BS, Antoinette Charles,¹ MD, MPH, Lauren Cooke,³ MD, Monica Ogunusi,³ MD, C. Rory Goodwin,⁴ MD, PhD, Trinitia Cannon,³ MD

¹ Duke University School of Medicine, ² Morehouse School of Medicine, ³ Duke Department of Head & Neck Surgery and Communication Sciences, ⁴ Duke Department of Neurosurgery

Introduction

- Early exposure to Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (OHNS) is critical for students to understand the field's broad scope and make informed career decision.¹
- However, many medical students receive limited OHNS exposure before choosing a specialty.²
- Given the limited timeline to select a specialty, it is essential to identify interventions that both introduce OHNS early and influence student interest.

Objectives

To review literature on interventions providing students early-exposure to OHNS and experiences impacting student OHNS interest.

Scoping Review Methodology

- Studies independently assessed by four independent reviewers for title/abstract and full-text review. Disagreements were resolved by group discussion.
- Inclusion Criteria**
 - Retrospective studies on experiences influencing OHNS interest
 - Intervention studies increasing student exposure or interest to OHNS
- Exclusion Criteria**
 - Studies conducted outside the U.S.

Results

- After screening 2449 articles, there were 15 studies that met eligibility criteria and included in the analysis. (Figure 1)

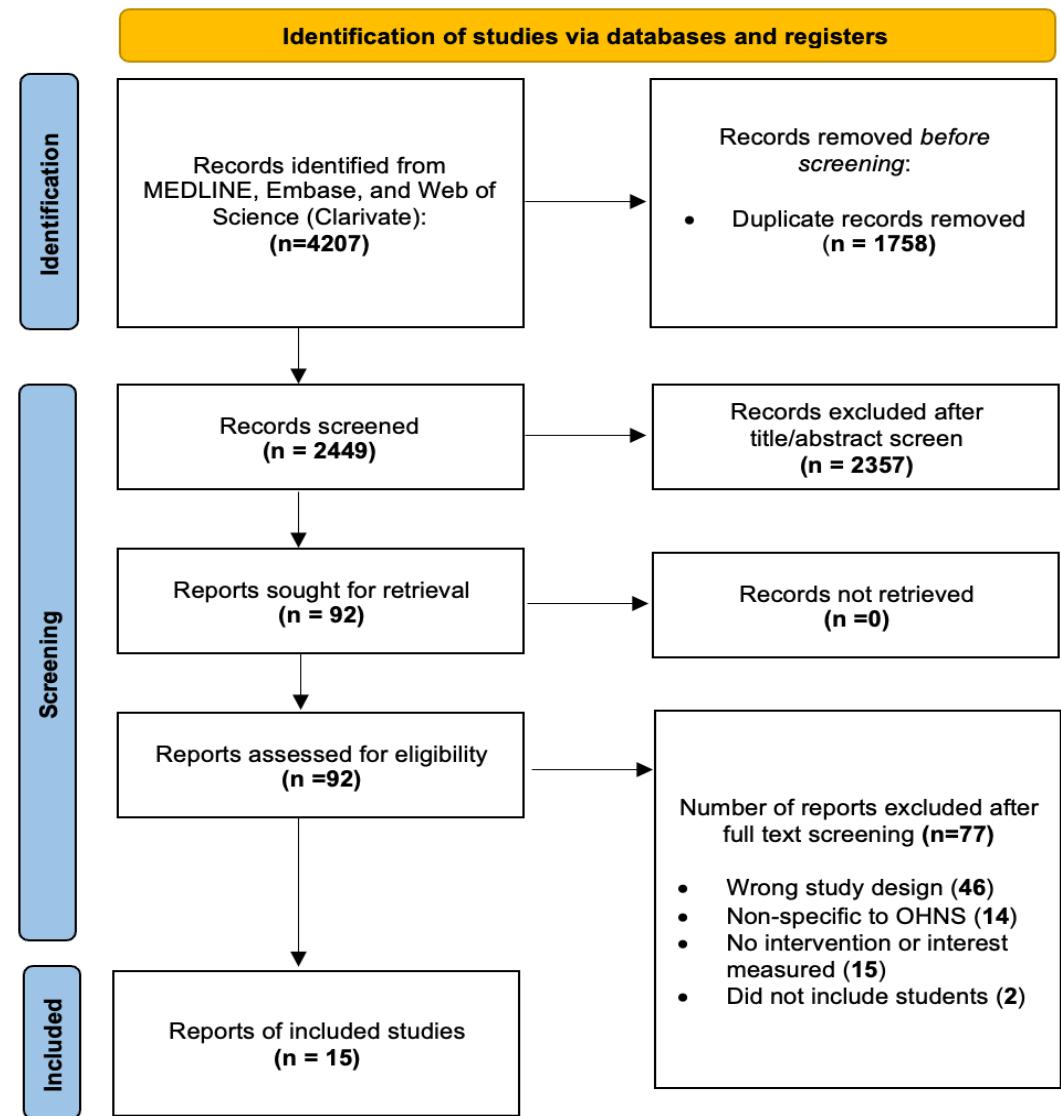
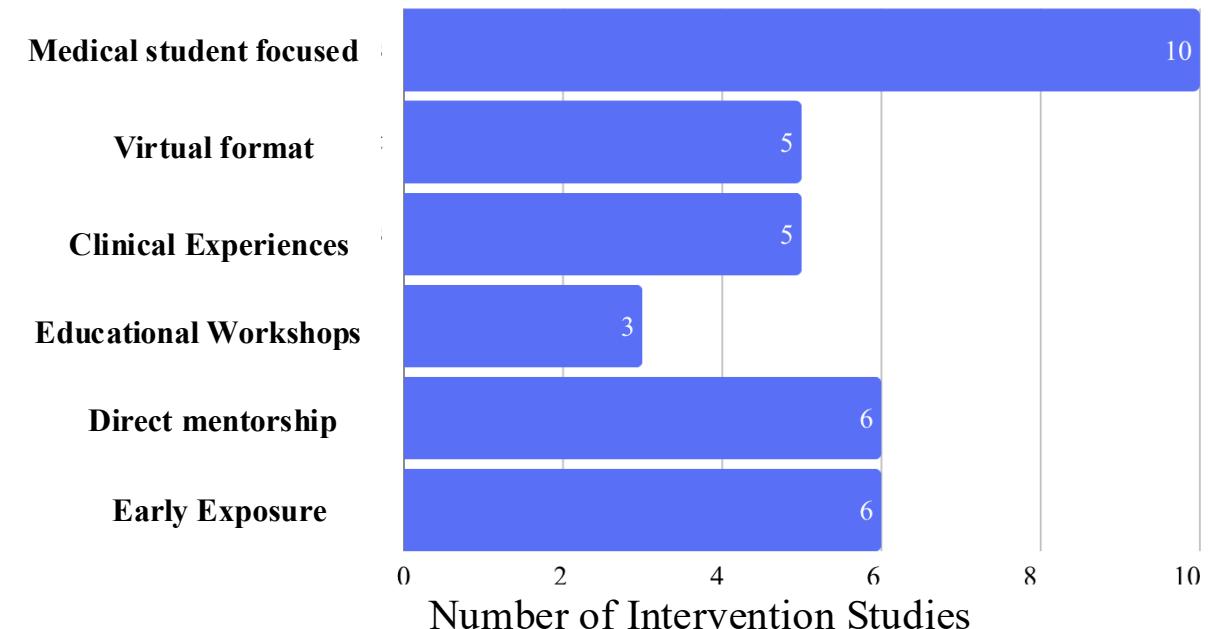


Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart of study selection

- Among included studies:
 - 66.7% (n=10) published after 2020
 - 73.3% (n=11) intervention studies
 - 36.7% (n=4) retrospective studies

Figure 2. Characteristics of Intervention Studies



Results

- 86.7% (13/15) of studies collected quantitative data on OHNS interest
- 73.3% (11/15) used survey responses to measure factors impacting OHNS interest
- 26.7% (4/15) assessed participant OHNS match statistics
- Factors Influencing Student OHNS Interest:**
 - OHNS Interest Group
 - Mentorship
 - OHNS Clerkship Experience
 - Early Exposure
 - Personality fit and faculty interactions

Conclusion & Future Directions

While early exposure to OHNS through targeted interventions can effectively increase student interest in the field, such opportunities remain limited in number, often short-term in nature, and restricted in reach due to limited accessibility for many students. Future initiatives should examine the long-term impact of longitudinal opportunities that improve access, such as virtual interventions.

References

- Compton MT, Frank E, Elon L, Carrera J. Changes in U.S. medical students' specialty interests over the course of medical school. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2008 Jul;23(7):1095-100
- Wong A, Fung K. Otolaryngology in undergraduate medical education. *J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2009 Feb;38(1):38-48. PMID: 19344612.