

ARE WE TOO MANY OR TOO FEW ?

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Plastic Surgery is one of the few surgical specialties that are still growing year after year. It is not easy to assess whether we are too many or too few, because Europe - or at least the European Union - now includes 27 countries, whose medical studies and customs in medical practice are quite different.

27 countries, 495 millions citizens but how many plastic surgeons?

Roger Green, President of the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) declared in December 2008, that in order to deliver an efficient service, plastic surgery ought to provide a ratio of 1 plastic surgeon for 100,000 inhabitants.

In the United Kingdom, this ratio is today only 1: 171,000. If UK needs more plastic surgeons today, is this also the case in the other European countries, or is UK an exception?

For example, in France, the ratio is now 1: 71,000, with 889 plastic surgeons for 63 million inhabitants.

Only 27% of them work in hospital, which means that the remaining 73% have their own private surgery.

Is there enough room for all these surgeons?

What is the current trend in the 25 other countries?

Can we draw up a common policy in terms of amount of new plastic surgeons?