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**Impostor phenomenon in anaesthesiologists: a pilot study**

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**Background:** Impostor phenomenon (IP) was coined in 1978 to describe an intense, pervasive feeling of intellectual fraud found in successful, high achieving women. It has since been studied in medical students and junior doctors but to date no investigations include anaesthetists therefore this study provides novel, unique insights.

**Methods:** This single centre, convenience sample, pilot survey was performed in an Irish Anaesthesia Department. Consultants and trainees completed a voluntary, anonymous questionnaire including a validated tool—Clance Imposter Phenomenon Scale (CIPS). The objective was to investigate if IP is present in anaesthetists and if so, how prevalent is it. The secondary aim focused on if IP has correlation with gender or training years.

**Results:** Surveys were distributed to 54 department members. Basic descriptive statistics was used on 24 completed questionnaires (44.4% response rate). Of those respondents 58% were male and 42% female. The overall CIPS score median was 62.5 (64 in females vs. 62.5 in males) (58.5 in senior faculty members vs. 70.5 in juniors). In this sample, 50% of participants meet the clinical definition of IP scoring ≥62 with 95.8% experiencing moderate, frequent or intense impostorism.

**Conclusions:** This is the first study indicating IP is prevalent in anaesthetists. It highlights the need to ameliorate IP particularly in junior and female trainees. A larger scale study is underway to statistically validate our preliminary findings allowing us to comment on effect size, confidence intervals and power. This research obtains information on a previously overlooked factor in clinical education, academic careers and wellbeing of anaesthesiologists.

**Keywords:** Anaesthetists; impostor phenomenon (IP); impostor syndrome; women; gender equality; junior doctors; trainees

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**Footnote**

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