

How to become an advanced endoscopist with Katarzyna Pawlak and Paolo Giorgio Arcidiacono

Egle Dieninyte - Misiune

Podcast Episode

Endoscopy

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Professor Paolo Arcidiacono and Dr. Katarzyna Pawlak discuss the requirements, training pathways, and personal qualities needed to become a skilled interventional endoscopist, emphasizing mentorship, high procedural volume, and patient-centred decision-making over purely technical skills.

KEY POINTS

- The speakers argue that becoming a competent interventional endoscopist requires patience, persistence, a strong mentor, and high procedural volume rather than just technical skill, with one guest noting that you can teach the technique to a monkey but complex decision-making separates experts from technicians.
- Paolo Arcidiacono emphasized that the most critical lesson is knowing when NOT to perform a procedure, understanding complications and how to manage them, and having contingency plans including when to involve interventional radiology or surgery.
- Structured fellowships of at least one year are recommended for trainees starting out, while short visits of 2-3 weeks may suffice for experienced endoscopists seeking to refine specific skills, though both require centres with adequate case volume.
- The speakers stated that you do not need to be in an academic centre to become an excellent interventional endoscopist, citing that you need to be a good physician first and that clinical research is possible in high-volume non-academic settings.
- This episode is most relevant for gastroenterology trainees considering advanced endoscopy fellowships and early-career endoscopists planning their training pathway in therapeutic procedures.

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