

Table 1 Descriptive statistics for the 4642 Iranian surgery specialists enrolled in this study

Characteristic	No.	%
Sex		
Male	3048	65.7
Female	1594	34.3
Age (years)		
< 40	1096	23.6
40-45	683	14.7
45-55	1911	41.2
55-65	706	15.2
> 65	246	5.3
Main occupation location		
University hospital	3854	83.0
Social security hospital	211	4.5
Army forces hospital	36	0.8
Petrochemical company hospital	24	0.5
Other public hospital	517	11.1
Faculty membership status		
Member	1154	24.9
Non-member	3488	75.1
Employment status		
Geographic full-time	1194	25.7
Non-full-time	3448	74.3
Recruitment type		
Permanent	1395	30.1
Zarib K ^a	845	18.2
Payam avar ^b	5	0.1
Peymani ^c	418	9.0
Contractual	1414	30.5
Other	348	7.5
Unspecified	217	4.7
Surgical specialism		
General surgery	885	19.1
Orthopaedics	535	11.5
Urinary tract & genital	347	7.5
Neurosurgery	224	4.8
Nose, throat, head & neck	390	8.4
Obstetrics & gynaecology	1049	22.6
Ophthalmology	440	9.5
Anaesthesiology	772	16.6
Dual practice		
Yes	2929	63.1
No	1713	36.9

^aA recruitment contract in which medical specialty graduates who are legally committed to certain obligations fulfil these obligations in a health-related centre. ^bA recruitment contract in which graduates who are committed to do obligatory military service work in health related centres instead, mostly in deprived areas.

^cSemi-permanent.