Representation of Surgical Training On Accreditation Council For Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) – Accredited Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Fellowship Websites: A National Content Analysis

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BACKGROUND

- REI has evolved from a surgically focused subspecialty to one increasingly centered on assisted reproductive technologies (ART).
- Fellowship websites serve as a major information source for applicants, yet the representation of surgical training opportunities remains poorly characterized

OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the representation of surgical training relative to ART training on ACGME-accredited REI fellowship websites

METHODS

- Cross- sectional content analysis
- 51 fellowship websites reviewed
- Evaluated ART and surgery curriculum descriptions, Minimally Invasive Gynecology Surgery fellowship (MIGS) presence, Society of Reproductive Surgeons- Surgical Scholars Track (SRS-SST) designation

RESULTS

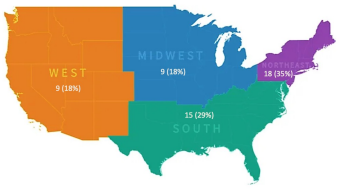


Figure 1. REI Fellowship Programs across the United States by region

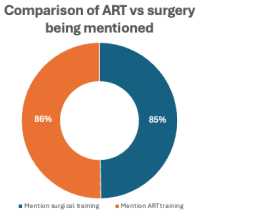


Figure 2. Representation of REI Fellowship program websites mention of ART vs surgery

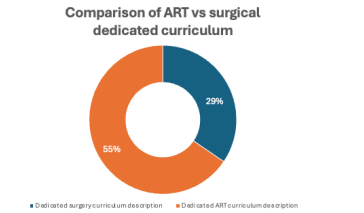
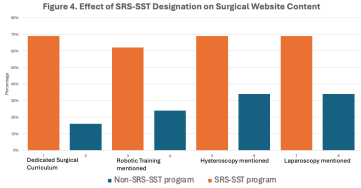


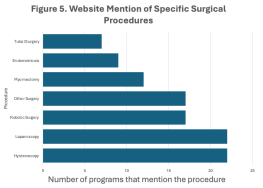
Figure 3. Representation of REI fellowship program websites with dedicated ART vs surgical curriculum

TAKE HOME MESSAGE:
REI fellowship websites emphasize ART training more than surgical training, highlighting an opportunity to improve transparency regarding operative education for prospective applicants.

Table 1. REI Fellowship Program Characteristics

Characteristic	N (%)
University	21 (41%)
Private/Hybrid	23 (45%)
Community	7 (14%)
MIGS Presence	24 (47%)
SRS-SST designation	13 (26%)





KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Nearly all programs mention both ART and surgery
2. Dedicated ART curriculum descriptions were significantly more common
3. SRS-SST programs are substantially more likely to describe their surgical curriculum and robotic surgery opportunities
4. No significant differences by region, program type, or MIGS presence

DISCUSSION

- Website content suggests REI fellowships emphasize ART training more than surgical training
- This mirrors the broader evolution of infertility treatment toward IVF and ART-centered care.
- SRS- SST designated programs maintained greater visibility of surgical education opportunities and may represent important considerations for applicants seeking advanced reproductive surgery exposure

LIMITATIONS

- Website content may not reflect actual fellowship experience
- This study used publicly available information only
- Cross-sectional design
- Potential website updating lag

CONCLUSIONS

- REI fellowship websites emphasize ART training over surgical training despite frequent mention of both.
- SRS-SST designation is associated with greater representation of surgical curriculum descriptions and robotic training.
- Applicants seeking stronger reproductive surgery exposure may benefit from identifying SRS-SST designated programs

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