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PART 1

PATH A
Do you like children?
- Yes: Will you be able to see sick and crying children (especially in emergency)?
  - Yes: Go for Paediatrics (and accept the challenge of diagnosing a disease)
  - No: Go to B and C
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PATH B
Do you like watching others doing surgery?
- Yes: Do you have interest in doing surgery on your own?
  - Yes: Go for Preventive and Social Medicine or Community medicine
  - No: Do you like the challenge of diagnosing a disease and knowing the details about it?
- No: Do you have stamina to stand for long hours? (See at the bottom of Part 1)

PATH C
Do you have special interest in female pathology and delivering babies?
- Yes: Go for Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- No: Go for Obstetrics and Gynaecology

http://j-amsa.amsa-international.org/
Go for either Ophthalmology or Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) depending on your interest. ^^

Do you like dealing with bones, fractures, and fixation?

- Yes: Go for Orthopaedics
- No: Go for General Surgery

Do you like working with high tech stuff to diagnose a disease?

- Yes: Go for Radio diagnosis ^^^^
- No: Go for Internal medicine

Would you like to do some intervention but not surgery?

- Yes: See # at the bottom of part 1
- No: Go for Internal medicine

Is it OK if you get emergency cases almost every day?

- Yes: Do you like doing surgeries under the vision of a microscope?
  - Yes: Go for either Ophthalmology or Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) depending on your interest. ^^
  - No: Go for General Surgery
- No: Do you like to be a part of surgical team but actually not doing any major procedure?
  - Yes: Is it OK if you get emergency cases almost every day?
  - No: See # at the bottom of part 1

Do you like dealing with mentally ill patients?

- Yes: Go for Anaesthesiology
- No: Go for Internal medicine

Do you like to be a part of surgical team but actually not doing any major procedure?

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Do you like working with high tech stuff to diagnose a disease?

- Yes: Go for Radio diagnosis ^^^^
Visit General surgery or Orthopaedics operation theatres of your hospital for some days to know about this.

Some surgeries in Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) can be done even by sitting on high stand stool and there are less emergency cases as compared to General Surgery or Orthopaedics.

Radiology residents are required in emergency situations where emergency X-ray, Ultrasound, CT Scan, Angiography, etc. is needed.

Choose between Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Radiology and aim for sub specialisation/Fellowship in any one of these like Gastroenterology, Interventional Cardiology, Interventional Radiology, Laser therapy and hair transplant, etc.

You might have chosen the medical field wrongly/under pressure. You can’t leave it in between but can always think of doing something completely different after your graduation like - Master of business, Master of Hospital Administration, Bureaucracy, etc.

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PART 2

Does your interest in the field chosen by you with the help of Part 1 (or the field you thought of right from the very beginning of your entry into med school) more important than anything else in the world?

(i) Yes

Please don’t read this table further and do pursue your dream field. Congratulations!!!

(ii) No, I want to consider other things as well

Do you want to work in a village/town/small city?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Do you want to settle down fast, be self-dependent early and start earning money early?

Yes

No, I can wait for some time before I become independent

Not Sure

See **

Do you want to go for post-graduation in a foreign country? (This question is especially for Asian medical students)

Yes

No

See **

Go back to (ii) see other two options

Does the only thing that matters to you is the money?

No

Yes → See *
The amount of money you earn depends not only on the branch you choose but also on many other factors like where are you working? Do you work in a government setup or in a private hospital or do you have your own setup? Doctors in some branches do earn more money than doctors in some other branches but you can never predict what's going to happen in the coming ten years when you will be practising on your own after finishing all your studies. For example, Radio diagnosis was amazing!! You can choose anything that interests you because there is scarcity of doctors at the periphery and people need doctors at their nearest place. You will settle fast no matter what field you choose.***

Go back to (ii) and see other two options

Choose among the following –

Dermatology
Anaesthesiology
Paediatrics
Internal Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

I want to do some intervention but not major surgery.
I am interested in doing only Surgery.

Think of sub specialisation/Fellowship in these fields.

Think of sub specialisation/Fellowship in these fields.

Choose among –

General Surgery
Orthopaedics
Ophthalmology
Otorhinolaryngology
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

I want to do Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
not a popular choice among Indian students some years back. But with the advent of technology, its demand has increased and now it is the topmost branch sought for by the Indian medical undergraduates after clearing their post graduation entrance exam tests. You never know that there might be a saturation in some field 10 years ahead and some other new branch will come up. So never choose a branch just because you see other doctors earning a lot of money in it.

** The procedure is a bit lengthy and complicated and you have to consider many other factors like cost, visas, subject of choice (most international medical graduates are selected in residency programmes like internal medicine, Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Family Medicine. Other residencies and especially surgical fields are a bit difficult to get - Not impossible though!!).

*** You just have to think about one time investment. This holds true for every field and especially surgical/interventional fields if you want to have your own setup. If you don’t have one, don’t worry - you can always work in government setups or tie up with other private hospitals.

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