

Table 2 Pattern of first, second and third career choices of medical students and house officers in Karachi, Pakistan (n = 850)

| Rank | 1st choice | % (n = 850) | 2nd choice | % (n = 646) | 3rd choice | % (n = 412) |
|------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Internal medicine | 20.5 | Internal medicine | 17.2 | Paediatrics | 15.3 |
| 2 | General surgery | 15.0 | Paediatrics | 12.8 | Internal medicine | 11.2 |
| 3 | Paediatrics | 13.5 | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 9.3 | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 10.2 |
| 4 | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 9.3 | General surgery | 9.0 | General surgery | 8.7 |
| 5 | Cardiology | 7.6 | Cardiology | 6.0 | Cardiology | 8.7 |
| 6 | Cardiac surgery | 3.5 | ENT | 4.8 | Dermatology | 7.3 |
| 7 | Dermatology | 3.4 | Ophthalmology | 4.0 | Psychiatry | 4.6 |
| 8 | Psychiatry | 2.5 | Neurology | 4.0 | Neurology | 3.6 |
| 9 | Neurology | 2.5 | Dermatology | 3.9 | Neurosurgery | 3.2 |
| 10 | Ophthalmology | 2.3 | Radiology | 3.9 | Ophthalmology | 2.7 |
| n/a | Other | 20.0 | Other | 25.0 | Other | 24.5 |

ENT = ear, nose, throat; n/a = not applicable.