Introduction Upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) is a common life-threatening emergency. Gastroenterologists are typically expected to be competent in delivering endotherapy for UGIB, with the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) often heralding the onset of participation in on-call UGIB rotas. We aimed to analyse the volume of haemostasis experience recorded by gastroenterology CCT holders on the JAG Endoscopy Training System (JETS) e-Portfolio.

Methods In this retrospective UK-wide study, gastroenterologists awarded CCT between April 2014–April 2017 were identified from the specialist register. Credentials were cross-referenced with JETS to retrieve UGIB endotherapy experience prior to CCT. Subjects without e-portfolio involvement or those not identified on cross-referencing were excluded. Sensitivity analyses were undertaken using the lifetime gastroscopy count to evaluate validity of JETS data. Haemostasis experience was measured only for JETS-supported modalities and collated according to variceal and non-variceal therapies. The outcome measured was the number of recorded procedures requiring haemostasis, e.g. a procedure in which 3 clips were applied was considered as 1 procedure. Comparisons of continuous variables were made using Mann-Whitney (2 groups) and Kruskal-Wallis tests (>2 groups).

Results Over the 3-year study period, 241 gastroenterologists were awarded CCT. After exclusions (N=9), 232 were included for analysis. Sensitivity analysis revealed a median lifetime gastroscopy count of 854 (IQR 60–214), without variation over the three years (P=0.817), attesting to data integrity. A total of 12,932 endotherapy procedures for UGIB were recorded, corresponding to a median of 42 (IQR 2–1) per gastroenterologist. Exposure to non-variceal modalities (median 28, IQR 1–2) was more frequent than variceal therapies (median 11, IQR –2; P<0.001). By modality (Abstract PWE113 Figure 1), adrenaline injection (median 12, IQR –3) and variceal band ligation (median 10, IQR –0) were most commonly recorded, whilst sclerotherapy experience was rare (median 0, IQR –0). Exposure to UGIB haemostasis did not differ by year of CCT (P=0.130). However, there was significant variation by deanery (P<0.001), with medians of pre-CCT endotherapy procedures ranging from 1–26.

Conclusion Based on JETS data, exposure to UGIB endotherapy prior to CCT appears to vary between gastroenterologists, by training deanery and by procedural modality. Implementation of standardised UGIB hands-on training courses and certification may help to support and quality assure training in endotherapy.