

POSTER PRESENTATION

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Cost free medical team training

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From Danish Society for Emergency Medicine: Research Symposium 2010
Roskilde, Denmark. 20-21 May 2010

Background

Medical simulation and team training is widely used and the effect on learning is generally accepted. However, full scale simulation is expensive and time consuming. Mornings in the Emergency Department (ED) are often quiet leaving time for other activities.

The trauma teams are well organized, and they participate in team training regularly. In contrast, even though medical and surgical patients are often at least as complex as trauma patients, they are managed only by a few nurses and a junior physician, and the team work is rarely trained.

We wanted to test the feasibility of a simple and cost-free setup, aimed at increasing the teamwork abilities of our staff.

Methods

The training was organized by two junior physicians, both ALS provider trained, and a nurse specialist, ATCN educated. It took place in a regular ED room with a simple CPR manikin torso.

On three separate days, two teams consisting of 2 nurses and 2 junior physicians from the ED were selected. The two teams went through a scenario from 8.30 to 9.00 am, and from 9.00 to 9.30 am, respectively.

The organizing physician explained the scenario and gave information about the manikin's reply and status. Vital signs were written on a piece of paper, changing as the scenario progressed. The teams were instructed to act as they would in a real clinical situation, e.g. talk to the patient and the team and to carry out relevant procedures. After finishing the scenario five minutes were used for debriefing of the team.

Results

12 nurses and 12 junior physicians had basic team training in a simulated clinical situation, while a similar number of staff observed. All active participants found the training highly valuable. The training also revealed that some essential utensils and medications for resuscitation were too far away from the regular ED room. Hence, part of the ED was reorganized on the basis of these observations.

Conclusion

Basic medical team training can be carried out without advanced equipment and with no cost if fitted into the daily programme. It is also a valuable way to test the equipment and physical set-up of the ED.

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Published: 17 September 2010

doi:10.1186/1757-7241-18-S1-P7

Cite this article as: Petersen et al.: Cost free medical team training.

Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine 2010
18(Suppl 1):P7.

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