Evaluation of junior doctors’ simulation learning experience several weeks post intervention.

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Background

Simulation training is rapidly becoming an integral part of the postgraduate medical education curriculum where patient safety and an appreciation of human factors are paramount.¹ Due to the high cost, many hospital trusts do not have high-fidelity simulation suites. Research has indicated that post-simulation debrief is the most important aspect that influences the trainee learning process.²

Aims

To assess the perceived educational value of a simulation training session conducted in a rudimentary simulation environment for foundation doctors (1¹st and 2¹nd year residents) several weeks after completion.

Methods

Each doctor attended a half-day simulation training session covering basic medical emergencies and non-technical skills in a all-in-one simulation suite (medium-fidelity simulation environment). After a few weeks/months, 22 trainees completed a post-training questionnaire with a standard Likert scale (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree).

Results

The questionnaires were completed 10.4 weeks (mean) [range 2 to 21 weeks] post-simulation training. Table 1 summarises the results of the questionnaire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Mean score</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 did NOT have any impact on my clinical practice</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 allowed me to feel more confident in managing acutely unwell patients</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 did NOT improve my ability to recognise unwell patients</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 has improved my ability to communicate effectively during clinical emergencies</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion:

Our results indicate that medium-fidelity simulation can be adequate for training non-technical skills amongst junior doctors with continued perceived benefit weeks/months after the training session has been completed. This may have significant impact on the ability of smaller simulation centres to provide high quality training.

Conclusion:

Our study shows continued trainee perceived educational value from a medium-fidelity simulation training environment.

Reference:
