Letter to the Editor

Call for an internationally recognized interprofessional simulation-based disease/injury independent, crisis resource management training certification

Sir,

Non-technical skills for crisis resource management (CRM) are vital and refer to task management, teamwork, situation awareness, leadership, communication and decision-making in life-threatening emergencies.1 A growing literature suggests the link between high quality CRM and patients’ outcome.1 A recent systematic review found that CRM skills learnt at the simulation centre are transferred to clinical settings, and that the acquired CRM skills may translate to improved patient outcomes.2

Despite the ubiquitous need for CRM skills across acute care specialties and types of life-threatening emergencies, non-technical skills for CRM have only been recently implemented in Cardiac Life Support teaching including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).3 The 2010 International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science states that “teamwork training, including leadership skills, should be included in advanced life support courses”,3 while the Acute Trauma Life Support (ATLS) training program does not yet mention non-technical skills for CRM in their teaching recommendations.4 Since there is evidence of positive impact of CRM teaching,5 we suggest that ATLS follows the lead of ACLS and start to incorporate CRM skills into training.

Research shows favourable outcomes in clinical behaviours and patient benefits after simulation-based CRM training in many different clinical contexts, such as trauma, anaesthesiology, obstetrics, and emergency medicine.2 This suggests that CRM is an essential skill to acquire across specialties, healthcare professions, and clinical conditions. However, the current educational system for acute care is mostly organized around “disease/injury” centred predetermined clinical situations such as cardiac arrest (Basic Life Support and ACLS), trauma (ATLS), and neonatal resuscitation (NRP). There is no internationally recognized training specifically dedicated to learning CRM that does not focus on a specific disease/injury. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada offers a 2-day Acute Critical Events Simulation (ACES) course5 but this course is uni-professional, for physicians only. While CRM skills should continue to be learned in all disease/injury centred courses such as ACLS or ATLS, the vast majority of healthcare professionals may be exposed to crises in real life and do not attend any of these courses. CRM almost systematically involves a team of multiple professions, therefore making it obvious that all healthcare providers should have access to such CRM training. We are calling for the creation of an internationally recognized, interprofessional, simulation-based CRM training certification for healthcare professionals that would teach CRM independently of a specific predetermined disease/injury.

Conflict of interest statement

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

References


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