

The patient simulator is a valuable tool for training the anaesthetic core skills to student nurse anaesthetists



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Description

Since 2003 several training units using the patient simulator SimMan™ were implemented in the nurse anaesthetists educational programme.

The students passed different scenarios adapted to their educational levels:

- beginners in levels 1 & 2 practised preoperative check-up, preparation of patient, iv induction, laryngoscopy, oral intubation and maintenance of general anaesthesia
- advanced students in levels 3 & 4 practised management of an expected and unexpected difficult airway including the use of LAMA/ILMA, management of rapid sequence induction including management of regurgitation and handling of different technical problems.

Method

We sent a questionnaire with 20 items to 13 students who had passed the training programme at least on one level.

The questionnaire focused in general on the student's practical experiences with and acceptance of simulator training, and in particular it focused on their perception of competence in the operating theatre after participating in the simulator-training programme.

13 of 13 questionnaires were filled out and returned. We received answers from

- 23% beginners (levels 1 & 2)
- 47% advanced students (levels 3 & 4)
- 30% certified nurse anaesthetists

Results

8 of 20 items are shown below. After simulation training, students felt more competent during critical situations in the operating theatre than during routine situations.

Moreover, they understand the usefulness of learning from their own mistakes and from those of others. Students accepted the simulator-training programme as a valuable tool for learning anaesthetic core skills.

