

Evaluation of enhanced simulation in Swedish BATLS training

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Background

For more than ten years, the British course Battlefield Advanced Trauma Life Support (BATLS) has been an essential part of pre-mission training for Swedish military medical personnel. Since 2006, enhanced simulation has been used for training of team skills. In short, the alerted team is given the context of an immediate incident then directed to a high fidelity simulator; control of the simulator is in an adjacent room where the instructor can speak through the mannequin and dynamically control the vital and physical signs. Each training session is taped on video and replayed during a structured debriefing.

Methods

In order to evaluate simulation as a method for military medical training, a total of 117 consecutive students (doctors, nurses and medics) participating in a Swedish BATLS course answered a questionnaire. Four different statements (A-D) were given and for each of these five different responses were possible (strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, strongly agree).

Results

Presented below are the statements and the corresponding percentage of positive responses (≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert scale): A - Simulation training gave me an experience of realism (94.0%). B - Simulation training has increased my trauma life support skills (71.8%). C - Audio-visual effects generated during the scenario increased my experience of realism (78.7%). D - Simulation training has increased my ability to give a positive contribution to the team performance (81.2%).

Conclusion

Simulator training is becoming increasingly popular for training of non-technical team skills. When using the simulator lab, it is quite easy to create complex scenarios by combining medical problems with issues concerning command and control, safety and communications. Third generation wireless mannequins have recently been delivered, which will make it possible to extend the use of the mannequin to inside vehicles and in outdoor scenarios.



Tactical Field Care



MEDEVAC APC



Role 2

