EP27.38- Is the use of the Scan Trainer ultrasound simulator relevant to the continuous professional development of obstetricians and gynecologists?

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INTRODUCTION

Keeping up to date knowledge and skills in obstetrical ultrasound is an important challenge for physicians, especially for those who practice outside of large centers. Ultrasound simulators appear as an interesting alternative to practice on real patients since they require little supervision and do not disrupt clinical practice.

OBJECTIVES

To assess the interest and satisfaction of obstetrician and gynecologists (OBGYNs) with the use of an ultrasound simulator as part of a multimodal continuous professional development training program.

METHODS

Echo-Realiste is a series of multimodal obstetrical ultrasound CPD modules offered to OBGYNs in Quebec. On the first day of training, participants attend formal lectures and practice on simulated patients. On the second day of training, participants practice on real patients in a workplace setting under the supervision of expert ultrasound technologists and OBGYNs.

In the fall of 2018, the formation “Echo-Realiste: Second trimester ultrasound” was offered to two groups of OBGYNs who were invited to use the Scan-Trainer simulator (Medicus) on a voluntary basis throughout the training. The simulator’s software was assessed through the simulator’s software. Participants were asked to fill out an online 360-degree satisfaction survey at the end of each day. This study was approved by the CRUES ethics board and all participants provided written consent.

RESULTS

Twenty-four OBGYNs with various levels of experience attended the formation and were enrolled in this study. Their characteristics are reported in Table 1.

Eighteen (77%) participants used the ultrasound simulator, and all attendees completed the satisfaction survey.

4 minutes spent on average using the simulator (min 2; max 10).

1.34 minutes on average to completely complete a clinical case (min 0.5; max 2).

96% of participants satisfied or very satisfied with the simulated training day.

100% of participants satisfied or very satisfied with the workplace training day.

CONCLUSION

The use of an ultrasound simulator without a specific schedule and/or supervision appeared to be of mitigated interest for the CPD of OBGYNs in the context of a multimodal workshop where supervised practice on simulated and real patients was available.

In future studies integrating the use of ultrasound simulators for CPD, the time period dedicated to this practice, the specificity of the training modules for experts, and the availability of supervision should be considered.

REFERENCES


Table 1 - Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical experience (years)</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound experience (years)</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound performed weekly</td>
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<td>Ultrasound performed weekly</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound performed weekly</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gynecologic ultrasound weekly</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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</table>

Figure 1 - Appreciation of the ultrasound simulator