Paediatric Resuscitation Instructor Training: Bridge to the future: from basic to highly advanced simulation

Gerson CONRAD1, Pedro DOMINGUEZ 2, David STEWART 3, Marco COMPOLO 4, Burkhard WERMTER 5

Background: Traditionally Resuscitation courses use different levels of training & learning effects, but use of highly advanced simulation integrated into standard resuscitation courses is unfrequently described (1).

Idea / concept: To supplement the didactic concepts in core-instructor courses for Pediatric Instructors in training with an overview of the range of simulation techniques from basic to highly advanced (2, 3) including live children (4).

Methods / implementation: An additional day to the standard core instructor course provided the following. Practical training on all stations of the PBLS/PALS Pediatric Basic and Advanced Life Support provider course.

A variety of debriefing techniques and mannequins.

- PBLS/PALS-debriefing and materials on following stations:
  - Basic life support & respiratory insufficiency
  - Vascular access & neonatal resuscitation
  - The integration of real children into a trauma scenario
  - Highly advanced simulation with audiovideo-debriefing (5)
  - Cardiac arrest & teamwork: here, instructor trainees worked as learners.

Instructor team was drawn from several formal teaching systems:

- Italian Society of Pediatric Emergency Medicine (SIMEUP), American Heart Association, European Resuscitation Council
- 3 Highly Advanced Simulation Centers were involved:
  - DRF Luftrettung,
  - PICU Paediatric Intensive Care Unit / Children’s Hospital Manchester,
  - White Cross, Alto Adige, Italy

Nearly all instructors worked together in previous courses.

Results: Compared to standard core resuscitation instructor courses, instructor trainees of pediatric life support courses had:

1) more practical training by Instructor trainers with specific paediatric emergency background.
2) training at different levels of debriefing with different substitutes for real patients
3) the course was international at instructor- and participant-level. The course was in German, English and Italian (Brixen/Southtyrol, 16th dec. 2009).

Discussion: The different systems of resuscitation courses are sound, but often without the integration of highly advanced simulation which could enlarge and deepen the training effect of the trainees (4, 6, 7).

Conclusion: Over the past few years we have worked on expanding the levels of simulation our courses offered. This additional day will hopefully contribute to broadening the views of simulation seen by recently trained instructors and their home institutions.

References
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