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TU5.10 Development of a Novel Near-peer Surgical Simulation-based Teaching Programme for Intern Doctors

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Background: Trends in healthcare have caused a shift in training towards more competency based programmes. The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced time available for direct exposure and clinical learning, necessitating incorporation of simulation in training. The objectives of this study were to develop, pilot and evaluate a four week simulation based surgical teaching programme.

Methods: Interns pursuing a career in surgery joined a near-peer surgical training programme delivered by NCHDs. A survey established a baseline competency. Four skills workshops were delivered. Outcomes were measured using data from pre and post course surveys as well as a surgical skills competition.

Results: Of the 12 trainees, 71% had scrubbed in theatre before. 50% were already confident to scrub independently, increased to 75% post training. 28% were confident gowning/gloving, increased to 75% post training. 28% were confident to place a simple suture in theatre, this did not increase despite training. 42% were confident performing an instrument tie, increased to 75% post training. 14% were confident hand tying knots, this increased to 62%. 14% of participants were comfortable performing excisional biopsy in theatre, increased to 62% post training. Preparation and administration of local anaesthetic could be performed confidently by 14% before training, this increased to 87%. On completion, a surgical skills competition showed that 100% were able to satisfactorily perform basic skills.

Conclusions: Near-peer delivery of surgical training has enhanced the basic surgical skills of interns. Similar programmes in other sites would ensure that interns have the skills required to safely care for surgical patients.