

### 374 Simulation and the Surgeon during COVID-19: The Double 2s Surgical Emergencies Course

D. Bhojwani<sup>1</sup>, A. McNutt<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UHBW Simulation Services, Bristol, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>UBHW Simulation Services, Bristol, United Kingdom

Educational opportunities for surgeons have been limited by COVID-19. This is due to reductions in elective operating, clinic cancellations and redeployment of doctors to medical wards. Surgical education has evolved to address anxieties from staff about missing out on valuable skills and experience. Although there has been a big emphasis on virtual learning, in-person simulation remains highly relevant.

The Double 2s MDT Surgical Emergencies Course was piloted amidst the pandemic at UHBW Foundation Trust. Places were restricted in view of social distancing (n = 13). Foundation doctors and nurses engaged in two simulation sessions based around acutely deteriorating surgical patients. Feedback was collected anonymously via an online google form.

All participants agreed that the course was pertinent to their clinical practice. 77 and 100% learners felt that their confidence had improved in assessing and managing surgical emergencies respectively.

The feedback shows that simulation can and should be employed alongside virtual learning to maintain the integrity of surgical education. Whilst the situation may eventually return to 'business as normal', the Double 2s course is appropriate to run again during winter pressures which may have similar implications for surgical training. It could also be adapted for medical students and higher surgical trainees.