

Primary Trauma Care (PTC) Course Report

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Dates of Course: 18-19 October 2010

Location: All Saints Hospital, Engcobo, South Africa

Instructors: Dr. David Oloruntoba (Consultant, Orthopaedic Surgery, Bedford Orthopaedic Centre), Dr. Howard Kingu (Consultant, General Surgery, Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital), Dr. Dhaffala (Consultant, Neurosurgery, Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital)

Participants Who Completed Course: 16

Background/Description: PTC is a course intended to provide basic knowledge and skills necessary to identify and treat trauma victims in less developed countries with limited resources and manpower. It is designed to be modifiable for health care providers at all levels and health centers with varying levels of infrastructure with the goal of training participants to diagnose, stabilize, and appropriately refer life- and limb-threatening injuries in a timely fashion. Mass casualty and disaster management are also included in the curriculum.

All Saints Hospital is located in Engcobo town 80kms from Mthatha. It's a 330 bed hospital functioning as a level 1 & 2 hospital and is the first port of call for trauma for the population of that part of the Eastern Cape Province.

Dr Rajeev Eashwari the Medical Superintendent of All Saints Hospital Engcobo approached the PTC committee in August 2010 about holding a PTC course for staff of ASH & the surrounding clinics.

Course Participation: This course was administered over 2 days at a rural health center to a mix a physicians, medical officers and nurses from the health center as well as outlying clinics. Participants were first administered a pretest exam to assess basic understanding. There were 17 participants on the first day, and 16 on the second day who completed the full course. For small group sessions the participants were divided by a local staff member into 3 groups which were maintained throughout the course. After completion a post-test exam was administered as well as a course evaluation.

Overall participation in the course was high. Participants from all levels were interactive during small groups and were comfortable sharing their experiences and questions. The level of questions ranged from situation-specific medical care to clarification of medical terms and conditions. Participation during scenarios, workshops, and practicals was also high with roles being distributed equally. Certificates of attendance were handed out at the end of the 2nd day.

Summary of Course Comments/Evaluation: The response to the course was overwhelmingly positive. The average evaluation for each segment of the course was above average to excellent. In general, the most highly praised segments of the course were the interactive scenarios; there was also specific mention of the workshops as well as modules on chest and abdominal trauma as well as teaching of the algorithmic approach (ABCDE) to assess trauma victims. Many felt that the course should be offered to more health care providers.

Suggestions for improvement primarily centered on the time allotted for the sessions as well as in the materials provided. Participants preferred that the course be longer as well as more mannequins for practicals and distribution of course materials before the start of the course.

Summary Statement: Based on pre- as well as post-test scores, there were significant knowledge deficits in basic trauma care that significantly improved after this course. Lecture modules, workshops, practicals, and small group scenarios had excellent participation. Overall, this course was well-received and informative for all participants.

Appendix and Summary Statistics:

Number of Participants: Day 1 – 17; Day 2 – 16

Average Pre-test Score: 15

Average Post-Test Score: 24

Average Module Score (1 – Poor; 2 – Below Average; 3 – Average; 4 – Above Average; 5 – Excellent): 4.5

Attachments

PTC Pre / Post test scores.

Attendance list.