

A new virtual anaesthetic teaching programme designed to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19.

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AIMS

- 1) To complete an assessment of the educational needs of anaesthetic trainees
- 2) To develop a curriculum mapped teaching framework covering both the primary and final FRCA examination syllabi.
- 3) To design teaching that could be delivered in a virtual environment and incorporate different learning styles.

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BACKGROUND

Anaesthetic trainees at University Hospital Southampton (UHS) reported a lack of formal teaching programme and felt inadequately prepared for college examinations. This was reflected in the GMC national training survey (NTS) from 2019.¹ The report demonstrated that UHS was significantly below the national average for trainee satisfaction for local education.

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METHOD

A task force consisting of anaesthetic trainees with a consultant lead have developed an education programme covering the primary and final FRCA examination syllabi. The programme has been specifically designed for virtual delivery due to the challenges posed by COVID-19. The teaching sessions are recorded to provide an online teaching bank which can be accessed at any time.

RCOA
Royal College of Anaesthetists

CCT in Anaesthetics

Annex C
Intermediate Level Training

Edition 2 | August 2010 | Version 1.8

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RESULTS

The task force has successfully instigated a programme of 46 weekly virtual teaching sessions that run over the period of one year. The programme includes morbidity reviews, interactive examination practice and journal club. It encompasses different learning styles and improve interactivity.

All 27 trainees were invited to anonymously rate the programme after 10 sessions using the same parameters as that of the GMC National Training Survey 2019. These feedback were then compared with the 2019 NTS overall score for anaesthetic training in UHS.

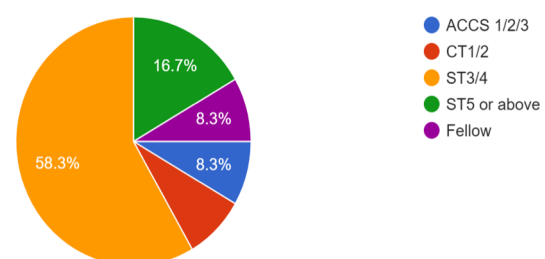
Key Results:

NTS 2019 UHS anaesthetic education score (pre-intervention): 61%

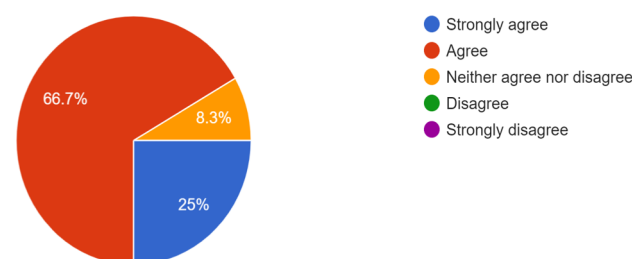
Teaching program feedback score (post-intervention): 90%

100% responses agree that quality of teaching is 'Good' or 'Very good'

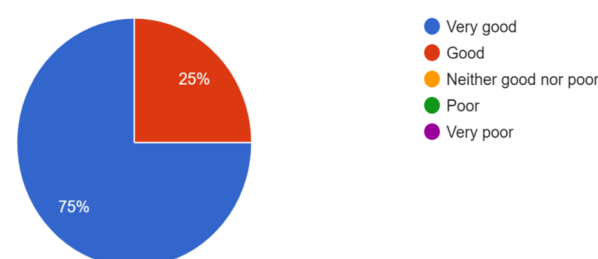
What is your training level as of 15th September 2020?
12 responses



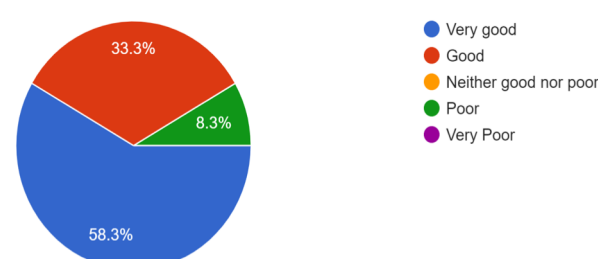
Local teaching takes place in the workplace. It includes organised, teaching sessions at departmental level.
12 responses



Please rate the quality of teaching (formal, organised sessions) in this post?
12 responses



How would you rate the quality of educational experience in this post?
12 responses



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CONCLUSION

By embracing a virtual learning platform, necessitated due to social distancing requirements secondary to COVID-19, a highly successful teaching programme has been created. A significant improvement in trainee experience has led to tangible improvements in educational delivery quality.

Unintended benefits include:

- Reported improved trainee welfare and hospital placement satisfaction.
- Trainee involvement in the design and delivery of teaching has increased learner participation
- The ability to record talks has created a more flexible approach to internal study leave allocation.

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Next steps

- Cover the entire FRCA syllabus and develop a permanent electronic learning resource for trainees
- Make available to deanery trainees specific teaching on subjects only found in a tertiary hospital to aid deanery FRCA training
- Acquire formal NTS feedback for 2020 and adapt the programme as necessary
- Continue to develop a culture of continued learning in UHS Anaesthesia

Reference:

1 – General Medical Council. National Training Survey Report. 2019. Available from: <https://webcache.gmc-uk.org/analyticsrep/saw.dll?Dashboard> [Accessed:12/09/2020]