



Editorial

Basic Surgical Training: Our Perspective

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Medical education and surgical training in our country has undergone significant changes during the last few decades. The ultimate goal of these changes is to produce a consistent, qualified and professional medical graduate who will be safe for the patient and the society.

The basic training starts in the undergraduate level in a very traditional way. But in the last few years, some medical colleges and teaching institutions took an initiative to bring change by introducing 'the basic surgical skills' training program. This initiative creates a huge impact on the trainees.

The outcome of surgery depends on knowledge, skills and judgments. Skills are of two types- technical skills and non-technical skills. Among the non-technical skills, communication, empathy, professionalism and team work are important. We used to think of technical skills starting with 'knife to skin'; it is also important to realize that, successful outcome for a patient is dependent on a surgeon who takes responsibility to make sure that the patient reaches that point considered first.

Efficient and effective communication skills are critical resource for all clinicians including surgeons. A surgeon must be capable of establishing a rapport with the patient and his/her family quickly and reliably. This mutual respect is critical to a therapeutic relationship. The patient and the family must be confident of the competence of the surgeon in order to participate in the recommended management and recovery. Unfortunately, this important aspect of skill

is not commonly focused during surgical training period.

Teaching in clinical skills facility is a necessity of time. It is essential that students should be able to learn in a more structured and systematic way. Training by using simulator is one of the alternative ways to evaluate clinical competence. This type of training has been proven to have many advantages. It helps to enhance the competencies at the same time improve the patient safety. Making mistakes is a common occurrence of the learning process. In the simulation environment patients are not put at risk. Cost is an important issue in simulation based learning. However, if managed and utilized properly, this simulation based medical education method can be made cost-effective as well.

Using simulation allows the acquisition of clinical skills through hands on practice. With the advancements of technology, simulation tools serve as an alternative to the real patient, thus it allow to perform procedural mistakes and learn from them without fear of any harm to the patient.

While hands-on learning with the real patients cannot be completely replaced, simulation training provides a safe environment for learning. Skill lab provides the ideal setting for both developing healthcare professionals at the same time protecting the patients. It is obvious that it does not impose or promote the techniques demonstrated as being the only way, but does endeavor to teach one safe method. Conducting these programs methodically will provide a firm basic foundation in further surgical training.