

INTRODUCTION

Debriefings are an integral part of the design of successful simulation based education and/or assessment program

The methods and content of debriefings vary widely. Decisions that impact the debriefing content and style often involve consideration of the intended audience, training of facilitators, available equipment, and amount of time that can be dedicated to a simulation program.

Although there is often significant passion, there is little objective data to help with decision making regarding best practices for a globally accepted method of debriefing

METHODS

Reporting the results of a post-course evaluation survey instrument used to evaluate the Advanced Prehospital Airway Management (APAM) program conducted at a university-based academic simulation center from July 2007 through December 2008.

Program Design

Asynchronous web-based review prior to Sim Lab On-Site Day (about 4 hours of content)

Scheduled program in a simulation center with various components (Figure 1) (about 8 hours)

Faculty : Student Ratio 1:3; 12 students per class

Simulation scenarios were pre-programmed into the simulators

Facilitators had all completed a dedicated training program specific for the program.

No Video Recording was used

METHODS

Prior to each scenario the team leader was handed a scenario card that described the scenario, setting, available help as well as approximate distance from a hospital.

Simulations utilized the SimMan® high fidelity patient simulator which collects data on simulator physiologic status as well as automated checklist information, and pre-scripted comments entered by the facilitator into a time-stamped log file.

Following each simulation the facilitator begins a bed-side facilitated discussion utilizing the simulator log file as a basic script of the debriefing

There is a projected view of the time-stamped log file, including comments that are pre-programmed along with easily available reference materials such as graphs, algorithms, diagrams and other training materials

Participants completed a post-course web-based evaluation tool consisting of Likert style inquiry and the ability to enter free text responses

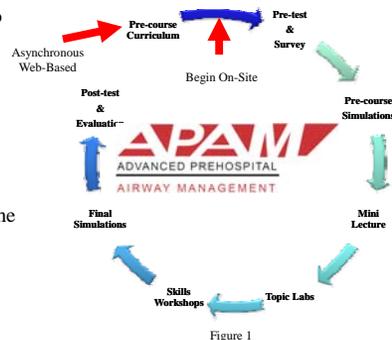


Figure 1

RESULTS

356 paramedics participated in the program

334 (94%) completed the on-line post course evaluation

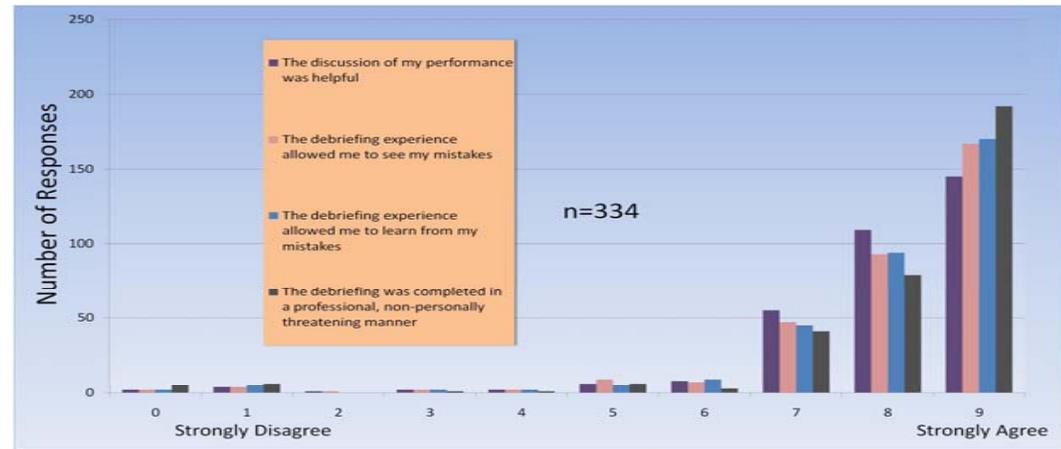
Median years of experience was 10 (range: 1-34)

999 Free Text Comments

0 were negative on debriefing

1 positive

Likert Statement	% (7-9)
Discussion of performance was helpful	93
Debriefing experience allowed me to see my mistakes	92
Debriefing experience allowed me to learn from my mistakes	93
Debriefing was completed in a professional, non-personally threatening manner	94



CONCLUSIONS

A debriefing method utilizing a performance summary log file as a general script for a facilitated discussion at the bedside immediately following each simulation scenario was highly regarded and found to be useful. As perceived by course participants

A substantial majority of participants felt strongly that they had learned from their mistakes

The method was perceived to have been completed in a professional, non-personally threatening manner by a significant majority of participants.