

INTRODUCTION

Simulation-based curriculums are designed upon learning and assessment objectives that are to be accomplished. Decisions that impact the curriculum design often involve careful consideration of the intended audience, available equipment, environments as well as the fidelity of the simulation.

Airway management is an important aspect of the scope of practice of paramedics in the field. Previous literature has shown there is increasing need to ensure better training and experience with regard to airway management for field EMS providers.

We report the perceptions of practicing paramedics on the initial 18 months of a voluntary simulation-based training program focusing on prehospital difficult airway management.

METHODS

Post-course evaluation survey instrument

University-based academic simulation center from July 2007 through December 2008.

Program Design

Grant Funded, No Charge to Participants

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

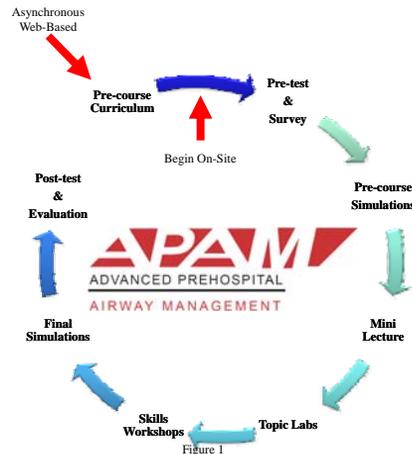
Facilitators had all completed a dedicated training program specific for the program.

METHODS

The simulation scenarios were based on actual difficult airway cases that occurred in the field and were pre-programmed into the simulators

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.

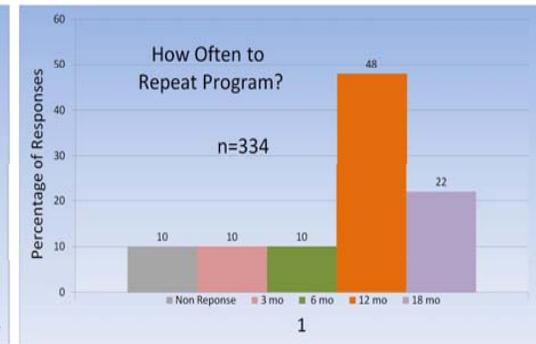
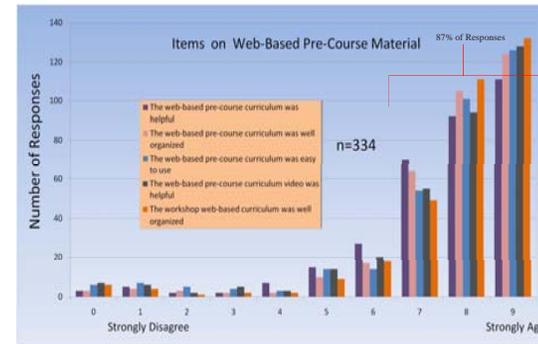
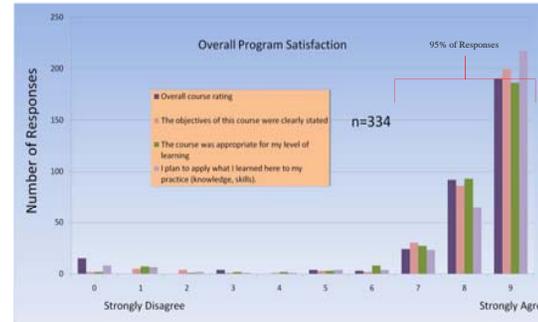
Participants completed a post-course web-based evaluation tool consisting of Likert style inquiry and the ability to enter free text responses



RESULTS

356 participants, Median Experience was 10 years (range: 1-34)

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



CONCLUSIONS

A program combining 4 hours of asynchronous web-based review content combined with an eight hour on-site simulation based-program was deemed to be highly relevant to practice, appropriate for level of training and approximately the right length for practicing paramedics representing a wide range of experience.

The majority of the participants felt the program should be repeated either annually or at 18 months.

The majority of the participants felt the program was about the right length