Effect of a structured briefing prior to patient arrival on interprofessional communication and collaboration in the trauma team

Martina Iattoni, MD*, Matias Ormazabal†, Giorgia Luvini, MD*, Laura Uccella, MD†.

*Emergency Department Unit, Ospedale Regionale di Lugano, EOC, Lugano, Switzerland

Background and importance: Treating a multiple trauma patient is a multidisciplinary team work. The performance of the trauma team is crucial to treating the patients safely and effectively. Fundamental for the patients' safety and team's well being are the quality of interprofessional collaboration, the communication inside the team and its efficacy.

Objective: The aim of this paper was to assess interprofessional collaboration and perceived efficacy inside the trauma team and its possible variation after the implementation of a team briefing before the arrival of the patient.

Methods: Design, setting and participants

Two validated scales were selected that address interprofessional collaboration and team perceived efficacy: the Team survey and the Mayo High Performance Teamwork Scale. A detailed and structured team briefing was elaborated. The study took place in the Emergency Department of Lugano Regional Hospital. Participants were members of the trauma team.

Intervention

A survey was conducted among nurses and doctors who work in the trauma team by asking them to fill two questionnaires. A briefing prior to patient arrival was then implemented and used for three months (Fig.1). At the end of the third month, we re-administered the same questionnaires and compared them with the previous ones. The respondents were blinded as to the reason for completing the questionnaires.

Outcome measures and analysis

The main outcome was the measured variation of proportion of desired answers. P < 0.05 was considered significant only when confidence interval were well separated.

Results: The main outcome was the variation of proportion of desirable answers (Fig.2). We considered significant only clearly separated confidence intervals. The perceived communication, collaboration and effectiveness of the trauma team improved with the introduction of the tool.

Conclusion: A structured team briefing prior to the arrival of a multiple trauma patient enhances interprofessional collaboration in the management of multiple trauma patients. Further studies are needed to assess the real influence of such tool.

1. P. Purdy, C. Alexander, R. Shaw, V. Brazil, "The team briefing: setting up relational coordination for your resuscitation" (2020)