

# Practical skills in a Pandemic: Teaching hands on skills, virtually

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## Introduction

- Due to COVID-19, medical schools expedited final exams this year
- Subsequently, interns graduated and began working early
- Normal circumstances there are numerous teaching sessions
- Both practical and theory based
- University College Cork decided to run their entire induction online
- Clinical skills, eg cannulation, normally taught during medical school on mannequins
- Some, but not all, have an opportunity to cannulate patients during placement

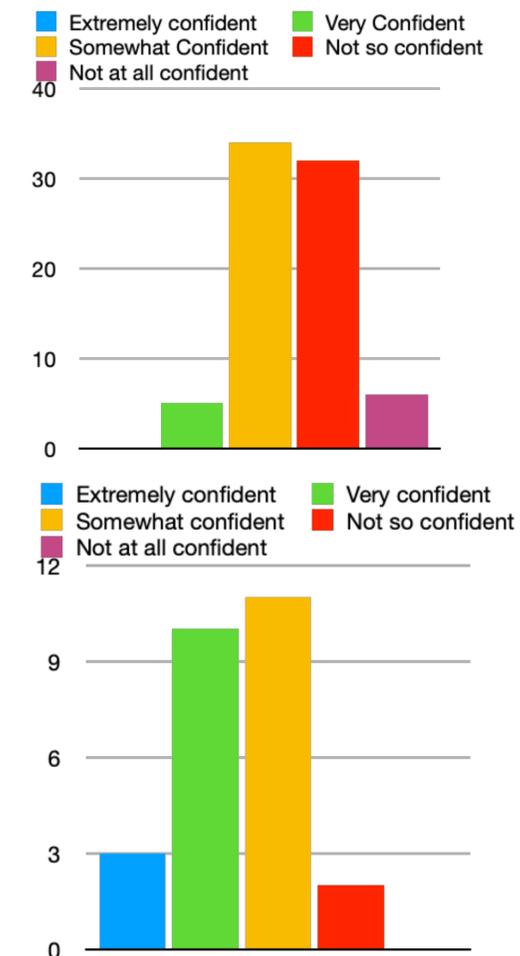
## Methods

- 15-minute PowerPoint presentation was pre-recorded by two Anaesthesiology SHOs
- Single page summary pdf available to download
- Interns were requested to complete 3 questionnaires via Survey monkey – prior to the presentation, immediately after and finally, 2 weeks after July changeover
- Questionnaires asked them to grade their confidence with cannulation and for opinion on the method of presentation

## Results

- 174 interns attended induction
- 3 questionnaires were distributed and completed
- Questionnaire 1:
  - 77 (44%) response rate
  - 65 (84.2%) had previously cannulated a patient
- Questionnaire 2:
  - 82 (47.1%) response rate
- Questionnaire 3:
  - 26 (14.9%) response rate
  - 24 (92%) reported some degree of confidence in capabilities
- 92% of respondents felt the teaching was beneficial
- All felt it would have been more beneficial if presented in-person\
- Good response rate initially
- As expected, significantly poorer follow-up

Figure 1



## Conclusions

- Virtual teaching sessions have their place
- They can not replace in-person sessions
- Increased emphasis in recent years on simulation for practical skills and preparation in medical practice
- Pandemic will likely help drive alternative teaching methods
- Importance of ensuring safe and effective medical practice

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