

Equipment knowledge of beginner Anaesthesiologists

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Introduction

- Anaesthesiology is a complex and unique speciality
- Makes use of knowledge and equipment that may not be fully understood by those practicing in other specialities.
- Beginning a career in Anaesthesiology can be daunting for a multitude of reasons, including introduction to a wide variety of equipment that may not have been previously encountered.
- The purpose of this audit was to assess the knowledge of the most junior Anaesthesiologists in Cork University Hospital at the very beginning of their training.

Methods

- Ten beginner Anaesthesiologists in Department of Anaesthesiology, CUH in July 2020
- Asked to anonymously complete paper survey in first month of work
- Asked the duration of their previous Anaesthesia experience
- Pictures of five different pieces of equipment were included.
- Asked to:
 - Name the piece of equipment
 - State it's use
 - State any contraindications they knew of
 - Report if they would feel comfortable setting up or using this piece of equipment independently

Results

- 8 of 10 participants responded
- 4 (50%) had 3 months or less experience, 4 (50%) had no previous experience
- All could successfully name, give uses of and contraindications to:
 - Macintosh laryngoscope
 - Fluid warmer
 - Neuromuscular monitor (NMT)
 - Arterial line
- 87 (87.5%) stated they would be comfortable using these pieces independently
- Only 3 (37.5%) could successfully identify the rapid transfuser and it's use
- No respondents felt comfortable to set up and use this independently

Conclusions

- Equipment adds an extra layer of complexity to Anaesthesiology
- Early exposure, and if possible, dedicated teaching sessions, about frequently used equipment vital
- Knowledge of equipment use is imperative to ensure safe practice and patient safety, particularly of the less frequently used equipment

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