

Teaching the basics of airway management via a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary course

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The basic management of an airway is a common goal of many residency programs. The objective of this study was to establish a multi-faceted interspecialty airway basics course for residents in postgraduate year1 (PGY1) at McGill University.

A course curriculum was developed jointly by members of the departments of Otolaryngology, Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine and Critical Care. Over 100 PGY1s from 13 different residency programs at McGill University attended the half-day course, which included rotations through 5 stations, each representing a major teaching objective in basic airway management. The course consisted of hands-on stations as well as simulation scenarios.

Residents completed a pre and post questionnaire about their level of skill and knowledge of basic airway management. The mean pre–post difference calculated showed a self-perceived improvement in skill and knowledge in all topics covered ($p < 0.05$), including intubation, bag-mask ventilation, alternative airway devices and the basics of cricothyroidotomy and tracheostomy. The majority rated the course highly in terms of usefulness and all would recommend the course to their colleagues.

In conclusion, the multi-faceted interspecialty course was well received by all residents and self-perceived improvement was found for all topics covered. There are plans to offer the Airway Basics Course at 3 different universities in fall 2010, with the goal to make it available nationwide.