ISSN 2472-0143

Vol.6 No.3

Long term retention of FAST (focused assessment with sonography for trauma) skills and knowledge after s simulation based training program

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Abstract

Objectives: Focused assessment with sonography for trauma (FAST) has been integrated into the primary assessment of pediatric trauma patients in the emergency department. Various studies show that the FAST skills can be acquired after a short training period in populations such as interns and medical students. However, few data exist on the retention of ultrasound skills over time. This study evaluated the retention of FAST skills and knowledge of pediatric residents 6 months after completing a simulator based training program.

Methods: This is a prospective cohort study. Subjects completed successfully a short simulator based training program of FAST examination. Skills were retested 6 months and compared with previous results to assess skill retention. Competence was evaluated by a simulator-based test. Integration of knowledge was evaluated by a written multiple-choice test.

Results: 16 of 19 (84.2%) subjects completed follow-up testing. Although Performance declined in image acquisition, still 91% of trainees maintained their skill 6 months after training. Interpretation skills declined more severely from 98.2% to 78.9% after 6 months. 25% of Participants stated that they are using FAST regularly.

Conclusions: retention of FAST skills is partially sustained after 6 months of non-routine use. A short training program is sufficient for gaining the skills but a routine use is needed to ensure competence.



Biography:

Katz-Dana Hadas have completed her MD training in Sackler school of Medicine in Tel Aviv University in 2014, and started her residency in Pediatric medicine on 2015. During her training she have completed a comprehensive point of care ultrasound course in Soroka University Medical Center affiliated to Ben Gurion University, which focused on FAST exam, cardiac, lung and vascular POCUS. As a future fellow in Pediatric emergency medicine, with the aim to improve and perfect this art of ER subspecialty, she designed with other experts in the field this short termed simulation based training in POCUS, which proved extremely efficient and productive.

28th International Conference on Clinical Pediatrics; London, UK- April 15-16, 2020.

Abstract Citation:

Katz-Dana Hadas, Long term retention of FAST (focused assessment with sonography for trauma) skills and knowledge after s simulation based training program, Clinical Pediatrics 2020, 28th International Conference on Clinical Pediatrics; London, UK- April 15-16, 2020

(https://clinicalpediatrics.conferenceseries.com/abstract/2020/long-term-retention-of-fast-focused-assessment-with-sonography-for-trauma-skills-and-knowledge-after-s-simulation-based-training-program)