Author's response to reviews

Title: The role of a simulator-based course in coronary angiography on performance in real life cath lab - A case control study

Authors:

Ulf J Jensen (ulf.jensen@karolinska.se)
Jens Jensen (jens.jensen@lvn.se)
Göran Olivecrona (goran.olivecrona@med.lu.se)
Gunnar Ahlberg (gunnar.ahlberg@ki.se)
Bo Lagerquist (bo.lagerqvist@ucr.uu.se)
Per Tornvall (per.tornvall@karolinska.se)

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Authorship Cover Letter

This manuscript is submitted for publication to « BMC Medical Education » as an original article. Neither the entire paper nor any of its contents is currently being submitted or has been accepted by any other journal and is not under consideration elsewhere. None of the paper’s contents have been previously published. None of the contributing authors have any conflicts of interest regarding this paper.

Contributing authors have been involved in following: JJ participated in the design of the study and also participated in the assessment of the study metrics of the participating residents. GO participated as one of the course lecturers and also in assessing the skills of the participants. GA participated in the design of the study due to vast experience in studies involving simulators. BL participated in gathering all the data from the SCAAR registry. PT participated in the design of the study and as a course lecturer and supervising the project. All authors have contributed significantly to this work and have finally read and approved the manuscript for submission.

We hope that BMC Medical Education would consider our manuscript for publication since we believe that the results when comparing a group of simulator trained residents in coronary angiography to conventional trained controls are unique. During a period of seven years we could analyse the learning curves in coronary angiography in all novel operators in Sweden of which 20% had completed a simulator-based course. The results from this case-control study highlights the importance of transfer validation before adapting new technology into a training curriculum.