CURRENT SCENARIO: KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC LIFE SUPPORT IN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Asmita Chaudhary¹, Heena Parikh², Viral Dave³

¹Assistant Professor, ²Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, ³Assistant Professor Department of Community Medicine, Gujarat Cancer Society Medical College, Ahmedabad-380025, Gujarat, India.

Correspondence:
Dr Asmita Chaudhary
Assistant Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology,
Gujarat Cancer Society Medical College,
Ahmedabad-380025, Gujarat, India
Email: asmivip@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT

A workshop has been conducted on basic skill of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) among doctors and nursing staff in medical college. Theoretical aspect was explained through power point presentation whereas practical aspect was demonstrated through skill station. The results were analyzed by using an answer key prepared from BLS manual of American Heart Association (AHA). Out of 117 participants only three participants secured 80-90% marks in pretest whereas rest of secured less than 50% marks. Post workshop assessment was done with same question papers showed 70% candidates securing more than 80%. Hence BLS workshop is essential to improve knowledge and skill of CPR.

Key words: BLS, Knowledge, CPR, Doctors, Nursing staff

INTRODUCTION

Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) are part of CPR. Basic Life Support (BLS) includes recognition of signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), heart attack, Cardiovascular stroke, foreign body airway obstruction and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). It is important that people in the community knows BLS skill to save lives and improve the quality of community’s health. This becomes more important for doctors and paramedical staff who are facing life threatening situations. In this study we showed that hands on skill make an obvious difference to improve skill of BLS among various health sectors.

METHODOLOGY

Study design: It was an interventional study where effect of BLS workshop was evaluated based on the pre training and post training assessment score.

Study participants: Medical and para medical staffs were included in the study.

Intervention: BLS workshop was conducted for three days by BLS and ACLS trained instructors of AHA. First day 40 doctors, second day 26 nursing staff and third day 51 nursing staff participated for training programme. The training cum workshop was divided into two sections; one was theoretical part and second was hand on skill.

Theoretical aspect was explained by expert in the field. Power point presentation was used for better visual impact on the participants. Hands on training were also given to the participants. This practical aspect was demonstrated live on normal individuals in medical college. Same training personnel and presentation were used for all three batches of training to maintain same intensity of training.

Evaluation of effect of Training: A questionnaire with 15 questions was prepared to evaluate the knowledge of CPR. The aspect on which they were interrogated like: the abbreviation of BLS, AED and EMS, Assessment and resuscitation techniques. The question paper was asked to filled up by all the participants before the start of the training. The same questioner was asked to filled up by all participants at the end of training session.

Analysis: The data were entered in to computer and analysed using SPSS software. Pair t test was used to establish statistical significant between pre and post training score. The difference is said to be statistically significant at 95% confidence interval when p value is less than 0.05.
RESULT

Among 120 responders three were excluded as their forms were incomplete. Out of 117 responders 40 were doctors, 77 were nursing staff. Among doctors 5% secured 80% marks in the pretest assessment whereas in the post workshop assessment 63% of them secured 70-90% marks.

Table 1: Percentage distribution among doctors in post test (n=40)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>No. of Doctors (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 70%</td>
<td>4 (10.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 89%</td>
<td>25 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 90%</td>
<td>11 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For nursing staff 3.9% secured 80% in pretest assessment whereas in post test assessment 27% of them secured 70-90% marks.

Table 2: Percentage distribution among nursing staff in post test (n=77)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>No. of Staff Nurses (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 70%</td>
<td>52 (67.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 89%</td>
<td>21 (27.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 90%</td>
<td>4 (5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Comparison of Pre workshop and post workshop scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batch of Workshop</th>
<th>Workshop Participants</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Pre Test mean</th>
<th>Post Test mean</th>
<th>Paired t test P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Batch Doctors</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Batch Nursing Staff</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Batch Nursing Staff</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

This study emphasizes the cognitive approach to the general perception and skill of BLS. Initially many paraclinical doctors show less enthusiasm and did not come forward to respond to questionnaires. Certain questions where majority of candidates failed to answer were: location of chest compression, compression ventilation ratio in child and in adults, depth of chest compression, and correct technique of foreign body removal from an infant.

In our study, the simulation based intervention offers a positively evaluated possibility to enhance skills in recognising and handling emergencies. Ruesseler M et al6 also mention in their studies that simulation training improves ability to manage medical emergencies.

Shanta Chandrasekaran et al9 reported awareness of basic life support among medical, dental, nursing student10 and doctors, found only 2 out of 1054 had secured 80-90% marks. In our study , only 3 out of 117 secured 80% marks in pretest. Hassan Zaheer et al9 concluded that inclusion of BLS course will increase awareness and application of this valuable life saving maneuver. Therefore BLS and ACLS training programmes should be mandatory for all medical and paramedical staff. C.A.Graham et al11 studied a survey of undergraduate training in UK medical schools found similar results. Asad abbas et al11 showed that knowledge of trained student was found to be better than untrained student.

A formal BLS refresher training is essential for retention of BLS skills and to maintain competency in the technique. In community lay person should be encouraged to participate in such type of workshop. In future scientific laboratory should be established in all medical college for standardization of quality CPR.

REFERENCES
11. Asad Abbas et al. Knowledge of first aid and basic life support amongst medical students: a comparison between trained and untrained students. JPMA 2011; 61:613.