

EVOLUTION OF CLINICAL DEBRIEFS IN A QUATERNARY PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AFTER UTILIZATION OF A DEBRIEFING TOOL

Jamie Chu¹

¹ Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine

² None

Background: Debriefing high-stakes clinical events in the emergency department (ED) setting can enhance performance and teamwork and is thought to provide emotional relief for team members. However, debriefing is an infrequent and non-standardized process in the ED setting. A clinical tool (DISCERN) was developed to facilitate the debrief process. The purpose of this study was to explore common themes elicited by the debriefing tool. To date, there are no studies examining the debrief process over a prolonged period, after implementation of such a tool.

Materials/Methods: This was a retrospective mixed methods study analyzing DISCERN forms completed from 2011 through 2017 in a high volume quaternary pediatric ED to provide a framework for analysis of clinical event debriefing data and determine trends over time. Both qualitative and quantitative components outlined in the DISCERN tool were analyzed. Using content analysis, themes were categorized when applicable within the context of crisis resource management (CRM) principles, which have been validated as a framework for assessment of non-technical skills during critical events. Member checking was performed to ensure trustworthiness.

Results: 407 DISCERN forms were reviewed. The number of critical events debriefed decreased significantly over the years, from a peak of 29.5% of debriefings in 2013 to 5% of total debriefings in 2017. Less than half (41.6%) of critical events were debriefed overall. An event was eleven times more likely to be debriefed if CPR was needed ($p < 0.001$) and eight times more likely if the patient expired ($p = .001$). Debriefings remained focused on the same CRM challenges in 2017 as in 2011. When compared to medical management of patients, CRM principles were mentioned at a higher frequency during team discussions of resuscitation events (81% of statements were CRM-related). Debriefings predominately focused on CRM principles relating to teamwork, communication, and preparation. Other themes that emerged were focused on advanced life support algorithms, as well as trauma management.

Conclusions: The DISCERN tool was utilized more commonly after highest acuity events. Debriefings focused on CRM principles such as teamwork, communication, and preparation, with medical knowledge discussed less frequently. Similar content was discussed over the six years of data reviewed. Insights elicited from this qualitative study can inform future work to guide debriefing tools and strategies.