



## 6<sup>th</sup> WSES Congress 2019

### Title:

Trauma course, once and for all?

### Authors:

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### Topic:

8. Training in emergency and trauma surgery

### Background

In the Netherlands, each year a three-day international multi-disciplinary trauma course is organized to provide the knowledge and skills needed to safely care for critically injured trauma patients. The curriculum consists of lectures and case discussions, in addition to workshops in anatomy, damage control surgery, damage control resuscitation and trauma orthopedics. This study was designed to longitudinally evaluate the effect of the course on participant's self-efficacy of their own ability and confidence to perform general and specific skills.

### Methods



Between 2013 and 2016, all participants of the annually organized Dutch DSTC® and DATC courses were invited to complete a digital questionnaire before (pre), at one day after (post), and during (follow-up). The questionnaire asked participants to self-assess their current (at each interval) level of confidence to perform general skills (communication, teamwork, leadership) and specific procedural skills. Total mean scores for the general and specific skills were calculated and mixed models were used to evaluate correlation.

## **Results**

In total, we asked 265 participants to participate. Response rate was 64% for the pre-questionnaire, 63% for the post questionnaire and for three months, one year and two, years respectively 40%, 30%, 20%. Overall, in the surgical group, there was a statistically significant increase in self-efficacy for general skills (3.82 to 4.20) and specific technical skills (3.01 to 3.83;  $p < 0.001$ ). In the anaesthetic group self-efficacy increased significantly in general skills (3.72 to 4.26) and specific technical skills (3.33 to 4.08;  $p < 0.001$ ). For both groups statistical significance remained during follow up (figure 1 and 2)

## **Discussion**

This study demonstrated a sustained positive effect of a dedicated multidisciplinary trauma training curriculum on participant's self-efficacy to perform both general and specific technical skills necessary for the care of injured patients. Given the known association between confidence and competence, these findings provide evidence that dedicated trauma training curricula can provide positive lasting results.

