SIMULATION OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THORACIC EMERGENCIES
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Objectives: The management of airway emergencies is a valuable competence, fundamental for every medical professional. Our Thoracic Simulation Course is an interactive stream with skills stations and simulation scenarios targeting both thoracic and anaesthetic trainees. Focus is not only on gaining practical skills at the skills stations, but also on managing real-life thoracic emergencies and exploring the human factors involved in decision-making.

Methods: The OneLung course was developed by a national group of experts from across the UK where evidence-based techniques are taught. Three regional and one national (SCTS University) sessions were carried out where delegates rotated through seven 45 minute stations performing the following procedures on mannequins under supervision of faculty members: 1) Rigid bronchoscopy and surgical aids to single lung ventilation, 2) Stent placement, 3) Insertion of mini-tracheostomy/percutaneous tracheostomy, 4) Simulation of stridulous patient with tracheal stenosis/foreign body, 5) Simulation of perioperative tension pneumothorax, 6) Simulation of chest trauma, and 7) Placement of bronchial blockers. Each scenario was followed by an in-depth debrief.

Results: A scoring system from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) was used for the feedback on the course. The feedback results from all four sessions delivered were the following: The session was delivered in a dynamic and well-structured way: 1 = 0%; 2 = 0%; 3 = 11%; 4 = 44.4%; 5 = 44.4%. The session was relevant to educational needs: 1 = 0%; 2 = 0%; 3 = 11%; 4 = 11%; 5 = 77%.

Conclusions: By engaging in real-life emergency simulations, all delegates develop essential skills in airway management applicable in both anaesthetic and surgical environments.