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200 Online Trauma Care Learning Helped Young Myanmar Doctors Managing War-Wounded

Khaing Khant Oo1,2, Aung Pyi Soe1
1Young Doctors’ Society, Yangon, Myanmar
2Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Newport, United Kingdom

Aim: Myanmar military’s brutal crackdowns on pro-democracy protestors after Feb-2021 coup resulted in a staggering number of death and wounded. An on-line trauma care series was launched in March 2021 for general practitioners and young medical graduates with limited trauma care experience.

Method: A pilot study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of online learning and address the demands of the medical personnel in the frontline areas. Pre- and post-assessments were sent out via anonymised Google forms and analysed.

Results: Among 106 participants, 65% graduated between 2011 and 2020. 46% worked in a hospital setting before the coup while 19.2% were GPs. Trauma first aid (70.8%), wound ballistics (68.8%) and ATLS updates (62.5%) were the most demanded topics. Average confidences grew in managing all 4 components (24.3% to 85.4% in Trauma First Aid, 23.5% to 72.9% in Trauma Wound Management, 12.5% to 81.3% in Wound Ballistics and 27.2% to 85.5% in Red Cross Wound scoring).

Conclusions: This pilot study highlighted an urgent demand for training and education in trauma care among young Myanmar doctors. With ongoing public hospital closures due to civil disobedience movement, care of war-wounded would still be largely dependent on makeshift casualty care chain in community setting.