Mini Event Grant Report for the Course ‘Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for Emergency Medicine’

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Background

Throughout my time at medical school and first year working as a Foundation Trainee it became increasingly clear that medical students and graduates had extremely limited exposure to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS). This personal observation is supported by papers by Goodson et al. (2013) and Mahalingam et al (2015).

Methodology

I designed and distributed an online survey to junior doctors working within my hospital. 40 responses were collected. The survey revealed that the vast majority of doctors had no experience of OMFS and most doctors’ had very low confidence in their ability to diagnose and manage common OMFS conditions. The Emergency Department (ED) was identified as an obvious area where improved knowledge regarding OMFS would have potential to improve patient care. I approached the clinical lead for the ED within the hospital and provided local teaching sessions for ED staff. These were well received and we decided to organise a course covering assessment, diagnosis and acute management of common OMFS presentations. Local consultants and trainees volunteered their expertise to give lectures and lead workshops for a free one-day course. The course was advertised to all ED Trainees in South, West and Mid-Wales, as well as Cardiff Medical School, Foundation Trainees and GP Trainees. The course was extremely popular and was oversubscribed for the number we could accommodate.

Lectures were designed and based on the ED Trainee syllabus with help from the ED clinical lead. Lectures covered OMFS in the context of Advanced Trauma Life Support, the presentation and assessment of mandibular fractures, zygomatic and midface fractures, head and neck infections, dental trauma, soft tissue trauma and TMJ dislocation.

Results

Pre- and post-course surveys revealed that course participants were able to increase their level of confidence in diagnosis and management of all areas covered (statistical analysis yet to be performed). Qualitative feedback collected from attendees was extremely positive and all answered that they would recommend the course to colleagues. ED trainees and juniors stated that they felt the course should be ran regularly to allow improvement in patient care in an area that is barely covered by the medical curriculum. The medical students also agreed and suggested that it be ran specifically for medical students.

Conclusion

Education in this area is generally felt to be lacking. The course outlined above has been shown to improve medical professionals’ confidence in managing OMFS emergencies. We hope to develop and build upon the success of this course to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care.

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References

Goodson A., Payne K., Tahim A., Cabot L and Fan K. (2013) Awareness of oral and maxillofacial surgery as a specialty and potential career pathway amongst UK medical undergraduates. The Surgeon 11. 92-5

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