

7th October, 2015

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World Journal of Critical Care Medicine

Ref: ATLS training: How useful it is (Frontier).

Manuscript No: 21616

Number ID: 00227380

Dear Associate Professor Arabi

Thank you for your kind positive response and asking us to revise the above manuscript. The manuscript has now been completely re-written as advised by the reviewers. We thank the reviewers for their highly encouraging and useful comments which have helped us to improve our manuscript. All changes made in the manuscript are highlighted by yellow color to facilitate the review process. The answers to the reviewers' comments are as follows:

1. Reviewer's code: 00875981

Comments: This paper addresses an interesting subject. Specific examples of what is taught would enhance it. Minor comments: 1. The author's biography is weakened by the presence of fragments rather than complete sentences. 2. In the introduction, the phrase "essential integral" is redundant. Use either essential or integral, not both. 3. In the introduction, change "In an evidenced-based era, it is legitimate to question the educational and clinical value of these courses. One of the most common courses taught worldwide is ATLS" to "ATLS is one of the most common courses taught worldwide. In an evidenced-based era, it is legitimate to question the educational and clinical value of these courses". 4. In the course description, you comment that "ATLS is a very demanding two/three full days course that uses different adult learning approaches [13] including interactive didactic teaching, simulated clinical cases, practical skill stations, and group discussions [14].....ATLS is actually a simulation course, putting candidates under stress in clinical scenarios so that they can make critical decisions in a similar environment". These statements are inconsistent. Change the latter sentence to read: "ATLS simulations place candidates under stress in clinical scenarios so that they can make critical decisions in a similar real world environment". 5. In the section "DOES ATLS TRAINING IMPROVE SURVIVAL OF TRAUMA PATIENTS?" do you mean to say "worse" instead of "worst"? Major comments: 1. It would be useful to explain (level II-1 evidence) and (Level I evidence). 2. Specific examples of interactive didactic teaching, simulated clinical cases, practical skill stations, and group discussions in the form of figures or tables would make the manuscript far more interesting.

Answer to comments:

Minor comments:

1. The biography has been re-written to have complete sentences as advised and has been edited by a linguistic expert.
2. Integral has been omitted as advised (page 4, paragraph 1).
3. The sentence has been changed as advised (page 4, paragraph 1)
4. The sentence has been changed as advised (page 5, paragraph 1)
5. “worst” has been changed to “worse” as advised (page 7, paragraph 2).

Major comments:

1. Level I and Level II-1 has been explained as requested (page 6, paragraph 2).
2. Specific examples of simulated clinical cases and practical skill stations have been added as requested (Figures 2-4)

2. Reviewer’s code: 01198134

The manuscript by Fikri M. Abu-Zidan was well-written, only some inconsistencies in style of references need to be revised.

Answer:

Thank you for this highly encouraging comment. The style of the references has been revised as advised by the Editor.

3. Reviewer’s code: 00502824

The main objective of this paper, as pointed out by the Author, is to summarize what they have learned from their published systematic review that has shown the educational value of ATLS courses. The Author is an expert trauma surgeon as well ATLS Course Director. This is an interesting paper and overall the manuscript is well written, clear, and easy to read. As an ATLS Course director since 1999, I am an enthusiastic supporter of ATLS training and strongly believe and completely agree that ATLS significantly increases the knowledge on trauma management, improves practical skills, organization of management, and identification of management priorities.

Answer:

Thank you for your very highly encouraging comments. There is nothing to answer.

4. Reviewer’s code: 02444698

Comment: Appreciating authors for conducting a good work on ATLS course. Authors carried out excellent review in accumulating information on ATLS course and its impact. In my understanding amount of information retrieved in this study is not adequate to formulated useful conclusion. Little more further review can be helpful in making a better conclusion.

Answer: Thank you for your encouraging comment. This Frontier is based on a recently published article which is cited in this Frontier. All details are available in that paper and readers can refer to it if they are interested. This Frontier aims to summarize the findings in a simple way to highlight the perspectives in this area.

All requirements requested by the Editor have been performed. I have attached permission from World Journal of Surgery to write this Frontier. Nevertheless, it has been completely rewritten to avoid self-plagiarism. I have attached the report of *SafeAssign* instead of *Cross Check* as we use it in our Institution. Understandably, my CV will be the same on the Website as I serve as the Statistical Editor for Hamdan Medical Journal as shown by the report.

Finally, I hope that my response will satisfy the reviewers and that this article will find a place in your reputable journal.

Best regards

Yours Sincerely

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