

Traditional Internship Does Not Improve Resident Comfort Level in Anesthesia Related Skills

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Background:

There is discussion that a four-year curriculum incorporating a clinical base year better prepares trainees for anesthesia residency when compared to a traditional internship independent of an anesthesia residency. Our hypothesis is that PGY-2 residents entering anesthesia residency after a traditional internship are no more comfortable in anesthesia-related areas than PGY-1 interns with no formal training after medical school.

Methods:

After IRB approval, a total of 14 PGY-2 (advanced track) residents who did an internship outside of our program and 6 PGY-1 (clinical base year track) residents on their first day of training in our newly developed CBY program completed a ten question survey which defined their self-reported comfort level with anesthesia related skills in the clinical setting using a 9-point LIKERT scale.

Results:

A total of 20 residents entering our program completed the survey. When the median score for each question was compared between the two groups (Mann-Whitney test) no statistically significant difference in comfort level in any of the anesthesia related skills was found.

Discussion:

There was no difference in the comfort level of the PGY-2 residents who completed an internship independent of an anesthesia residency program compared to the PGY-1 residents with regard to ten basic anesthesia related skills. Repeating this survey next year after the aforementioned PGY-1 residents complete their CBY year in our program may offer insight into the ability of this curriculum to better prepare interns for a career in anesthesiology.

References:

Staszak, J. et al. Changing of an anesthesiology clinical base year to create an integrated 48-month curriculum: experience of one program. J. Clin Anes 2005; 17:3, 225-228.

Median personal score assessment (scale 1-9) in anesthesia related competencies. (1=Very Uncomfortable 9= Very Comfortable)

Competency	PGY-1 (n=6)	PGY-2 (n=14)	Mann-Whitney
Pre-op evaluation	4.5 (2-6)	4.0 (2-8)	P=0.329
Setting up a room for an anesthetic	2.5 (1-6)	3.5 (1-7)	P=0.676
Performing induction	3.0 (1-6)	4.0 (1-8)	P=0.557
Airway management	4.0 (3-6)	4.0 (2-7)	P=0.762
Maintenance of GA	3.0 (1-6) (n=5)	4.0 (1-7)	P=0.743
Managing emergence	2.5 (1-6)	3.5 (1-5)	P=0.769
Pharmacology/physiology of common anesthetics	4.5 (2-8)	3.5 (1-6)	P=0.356
Invasive monitoring	4.0 (1-6)	4.0 (2-6)	P=0.966
Neuraxial anesthesia	3.0 (1-6)	3.5 (1-5)	P=0.933
Management of the acute pain patient	2.0 (1-6)	4.0 (1-6)	P=0.799

Legend: Data are presented as median with range in parenthesis.