

Evaluation of The Perceived Value of a Conscious Sedation Training Course for Military and Veteran's Affairs Non-Anesthesia Health Care Providers

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Introduction:

The growth of outpatient surgical care has expanded the need for conscious sedation. This need could be further expanded in deployed military settings or when providing disaster medical relief. The goal of this project was to develop and assess the perception of value of the participants of a conscious sedation training protocol for VA and DOD non-anesthesia health care providers.

Methods:

Following IRB approval, a four hour conscious sedation training course was developed and conducted at the Omaha VA Medical Center for Family Practice Residents from Offutt AFB. The students received didactic lectures on perioperative assessment, pharmacology of sedation drugs, management of sedation and post operative care. These didactic sessions were combined with hands-on airway management laboratory and operating room visits and observation. The participants completed a survey designed to assess their perceived value of the training.

Results:

The participants evaluated the session as of high value to their practice (see Tables)

23% of participants found the workshop "better than expected", 14% "worse than expected, and 63% "about as expected."

91% of participants would recommend the workshop to their peers, while 9% would not.

Conclusions:

There is an expansion of conscious sedation use in the VA and DOD by non anesthesia providers at the present time. Safety could be improved by anesthesiologists taking a leading training role for conscious sedation education. Data derived from this workshop will be used to improve a conscious sedation training workshop. Our goal is to create a standard conscious sedation training program for DOD/VA personnel which will ultimately lead to a certification process for non anesthesia personnel performing this medical function.

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Table 1
Perception of Satisfaction with the session (% of participants)

How satisfied were you with:	a	b	c	d	e
airway lecture	22	75	0	4	0
airway lab	30	65	5	0	0
anesthesia pre-op station	17	70	13	0	0
OR monitor / record keeping	22	13	9	0	13
pharmacology station	26	61	13	0	0
OR airway briefing	26	61	4	0	9
recovery room station	22	61	4	0	13

where:

- a = completely satisfied
- b = mostly satisfied
- c = mostly dissatisfied
- d = completely dissatisfied
- e = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Table 2
Assessment of oral, nasal airways and LMA station

	New information	- commonly use - comfortable with use	- do not use - have used in past - comfortable with use
oral airway	30	13	57
nasal airway	39	4	57
LMA	70	0	30

Table 3
Assessment of difficulty and new experience gained

	Agreement		Disagreement		Neither
	completely	mostly	completely	mostly	
challenging	13	48	30	0	9
enjoyed	27	63	5	0	5
gained experience	30	70	0	0	0