Improving patient experience

VIRTUAL REALITY: ENHANCING THE PROSTATE CANCER PATIENT'S EXPERIENCE OF RADIOThERAPY

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The success of radical radiotherapy (RT) for prostate cancer relies upon obtaining accurate computed tomography (CT) imaging. Image quality is highly dependent upon patients having a full bladder and empty rectum during their scans. Therefore, it is essential that patients practice bladder training and enema administration before and throughout treatment.

Unfortunately, patients often neglect these tasks, leading to sub-optimal imaging necessitating repeated CT scanning. This increases departmental workload, patient radiation exposure, and delays treatment commencement. To address this issue, we formed a multi-disciplinary ‘RT education committee’ and held meetings to collaborate and disseminate strategies to improve patient understanding of RT.

Virtual Environment for Radiotherapy Training (VERT) is a virtual reality software originally developed for radiographer education. We felt that it could tackle several patient issues identified by our department. We initiated a pilot project implementing the use of VERT to visually explain the RT process to patients over 12 months.

The control group (n=55) received standard pre-RT education and the VERT group (n=56) received an additional VERT education session. Data was collected prospectively from feedback questionnaires. In the control group, 49% of patients required repeat CT planning scans, compared to 34% in the VERT group (p=0.105). Patients requiring re-education of bowel and bladder preparation due to poor compliance was significantly higher for the control group, 29%, compared to 13% for the VERT group (p=0.03). 63% of patients stated that the VERT session reduced their anxiety levels. Cost analysis revealed that the calculated average savings per patient was £17.

VERT patient education reduces anxiety, improves compliance with RT preparation and reduces requirements for repeated CT scanning. Use of a virtual-reality patient education program should be considered in all RT departments nationally.

Leading innovation and improvement

THE JUNIOR DOCTOR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: LEADERSHIP FROM THE FRONTLINE FOR IMPROVEMENT

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Background In 2013, Sir Keogh’s review recommended we tap into the day-to-day experiences of front line health care professionals in order to improve patient care. As a result, The Junior Doctors Service Improvement Board (JDSIB) was started in 2014 at Darent Valley hospital.

Aims
1. Provide a forum for discussion of ideas for quality improvement (QI)
2. Develop ideas into achievable, timely plans
3. Connect frontline staff with the necessary resources and personnel to turn plans into actions
4. Aid in delivering sustainable improvements in patient care led by frontline staff.

Methods Led by junior doctor chairs and a consultant lead, the board invites staff to propose and discuss improvement projects. Project leads are expected to find an enthusiastic mentor, include MDT members, and complete a short initiation template to register projects. The JDSIB connects teams with the appropriate staff and resources they require, and advise on methodology. The JDSIB is well supported by the leadership faculty group and the Trust Board. To ensure sustainability and handover we maintain a database of ongoing projects.

Results Since 2014, we have 31 completed quality improvement projects. In 2018, we launched a new project initiation template, introduced a quality improvement project toolkit, and a half-day QI training workshop for all staff.

Sample completed projects include Trust electrolyte guidelines, launched trust wide through shared working of the renal, endocrine, and pharmacy departments.

The pharmacist buddy scheme for new FY1’s to reduce medication errors and improve prescribing skills and confidence.

Trust-wide introduction and facilitation of the adoption of the WHO surgical brief.

Discussion/conclusion The JDSIB has facilitated frontline staff in developing their leadership skills and successfully designing, leading, and completing sustainable improvement projects which have brought huge benefit to patient care across the trust.

Developing effective leaders

A QUALITATIVE STUDY TO EXPLORE CHIEF REGISTRARS’ PERCEPTIONS ON THE IMPACT THEIR ROLE HAD ON THEIR CLINICAL TRAINING

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Background The Chief Registrar (CR) scheme is a new leadership role for junior doctors in training. An independent evaluation of the first cohort underlined barriers faced by CRs, which suggested that their clinical training might have been affected.

Objectives This was the first study investigating the second cohort of CRs, and the first study exploring the impact the role has on CRs clinical training, and the differences in clinical training experienced between CRs In-programme and those Out-of-programme.
Strengthening a new model of integrated care using community based simulation education

Methodology: This study involved 8 semi-structured, audio-recorded, face-to-face interviews with Chief Registrars currently practicing in the second cohort within UK.

Findings: The majority of CRs reported that, overall, the CR role had no effect or had a positive impact on their clinical training (75%). Whereas, all CRs identified experiencing constraints to clinical training at some point, only a small minority felt that their overall clinical training was being negatively impacted by the CR role (25%). Most CRs found enablers to clinical training and solutions towards overcoming certain challenges and barriers.

Conclusion: CRs experienced constraints to clinical training, but the overall impact was a balance between barriers and facilitators to clinical training. Specific clinical context such as differences in clinical role, organisational pressures, and specialty were important factors affecting clinical training. However, many CRs agreed that clinical leadership is an imperative skill for a consultant role, and that the benefits of developing clinical leadership skills outweighed any short-term negative impact they may have experienced. There was limited evidence of systematic differences in practice between CRs In-programme, out-of-programme training, and out-of-programme experience. No clear associations between impact on clinical training and CR role were found, however, the many CRs showed preference towards doing the role out-of-programme.

Quantitative data analysis revealed statistically significant differences in course-specific measures around confidence, multi-disciplinary team working and quality of care provision.

Conclusions and recommendations: Educators can use SBE for IPE in a community context.

SBE is a helpful modality to immerse delegates in a scenario to safely analyse Human factors and integrate better together.

This design process can be applied to other community based specialties and can be extended to interested hospital specialties to better improve integration.

How junior doctors can affect change in the NHS

Leadership in simulation based education

How junior doctors can affect change in the NHS

Abstracts