“Sim life model: introducing a new teaching device in endocrine surgery simulation”. Author’s commentary

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I would like to thank Dr Devgan and colleagues for their paper and comment about their questions.

Our previous experience, published in 2020 on Updates in Surgery, was the first submission of SimLife model in Endocrine Surgery ever [1]. Since then, the First French National Workshop has been held in Poitiers in June 2021, in collaboration with AFCE (French Association for Endocrine Surgery) to provide training for junior surgeon and chief residents.

The specificity of the model and the limits associated to body availability need to provide such simulation to trained residents in basic endocrine surgery, to avoid resource’s wasting.

Our workshop is held on two consecutive days (day one adrenal surgery, day two thyroid and lateral neck dissection), and consists of theoretical part followed by a practical part.

During the theoretical part by lessons of anatomy, surgical technique and video demonstration are given by a core faculty of expert endocrine surgeons (chosen within the AFCE members), while in the practical section, conducted in the wet lab, two trainees, under the supervision of an expert endocrine surgeon, perform surgery on SimLife model, acting as first surgeon on one side and assistant on the other side of the model for each single procedure.

In addition, two external evaluators report the results of the trainees using a specifically designed performance scale.

Score on this scale allows to evaluate surgical skills by each step of a given procedure for each trainee.

At the end of each practical part, a debriefing session is performed aiming to exchange between trainees and faculty teachers and to provide experience’s return, discussing overall results and to highlight technical point which should be improved [1, 2]. The aim is also to re-evaluate in a further session the trainees to assess amelioration of skills.

A satisfaction questionnaire is also filled by trainees to retain suggestion and ameliorate the global experience.

The SimLife Endocrine Surgery Model is new model of simulation which evolves also after each session to provide better experience and training. Nevertheless, its an advanced simulation model which should be used at the end of resident’s full training, dedicated to those young surgeons aiming to develop a career in endocrine surgery [1].

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have no financial ties or conflicts of interest to declare.

References

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