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SIM WARS:
Use of Simulation Competition as a Model for Learning Neurological Emergencies

Learning Objectives

- Develop an active learning and competitive environment simulating fast decision making and method based approaches not always found in a teaching simulation
- Develop an innovative approach to simulation
- Improve the educational experience of emergency medicine residents
- Reproduce the uncertainty and need for quick and accurate decision-making required in a real resuscitation using competitive stress
- Discuss the use of universally accepted and evidenced based approaches to management of neurological emergencies

Background

Due to the broad range of pathology encompassed by emergency medicine, protocols have been issued by experts in the field to guide clinical care. As these protocols become "standards of care," it is important for residents to have an understanding of how and when they should be applied. It is often difficult to teach the full extent of this heuristic knowledge in a busy emergency department. High-fidelity simulation offers a safe and controlled learning environment to allow residents to incorporate these protocols into their patient care.

Realistic simulation of critical emergency patients and resuscitation scenarios has gained acceptance as an important new tool in the education of emergency medicine residents. Immersive simulation has been used to teach lessons extending from basic ACLS to complicated critical care techniques. Often management is instituted using prior clinical experience with success based on patient survival. In this exercise, within a competitive learning environment with a panel of peers and experts, emphasis will be placed on the use of evidence based medicine, regardless of patient outcome.

Key Clinical Questions

What skills must emergency physicians have in order to safely and effectively manage Emergency Department patients presenting with a variety of neurological emergencies?

What current ED practice therapies can be utilized in order to optimize the care of patients with neurological emergencies?