Background:

- A recent serious incident relating to a cardiac arrest on the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) highlighted a lack of knowledge relating to resuscitation equipment in both doctors and nurses.
- The UK Resuscitation Council expects staff to be trained and updated on equipment regularly.\(^1\)
- However education & knowledge regarding this is often presumed and not explicitly taught.
- We developed a teaching and education programme to address this issue.

Methods:

- A pre-education quiz relating to resuscitation equipment on adult resuscitation trolleys was distributed to AMU staff.
- Results were anonymous aside from staff’s role/position.
- Five minute teaching sessions were then provided to both doctors and nurses regarding the resuscitation equipment.
- A poster was also developed (Figure 1) for display alongside the resuscitation trolleys in the AMU.
- A post-education quiz was then distributed following teaching sessions to establish any improvement in knowledge.
- Mean percentage values were calculated and a paired t-test comparison made between pre- and post-teaching results.

Results:

- A total of 30 staff participated pre-education and 22 post-education.
- There was a statistically significant improvement in correctly identifying resuscitation equipment from the adult resuscitation trolley following an education programme from 73.3% to 94.2% (mean difference 20.9%, \(p<0.001\)).

Conclusion and Recommendations:

- There is a basic lack of knowledge relating to equipment on a resuscitation trolley.
- A simple 5-minute education programme and reminder poster significantly improves this knowledge.
- This work can be expanded further to other wards within the hospital and could be included at all new healthcare staff inductions.
- We postulate that these simple interventions may greatly improve experiences of staff and running of cardiac arrests.

Reference