Certified versus non-certified advanced life support training and self-assessed provider performance

Authors: Nicolas Verheyen, Georg Richtig, Marlene Pandis, Christian Trummer, Verena Schwetz, Martin R. Grübler

Methods: We asked individuals (selected on random basis) who perform ALS as part of their professional routine or voluntary work at the emergency medical service in Graz for completing a questionnaire. The question related to self-assessed difference in performance and the learning of new skills when additionally completing an ERC certified ALS course after equivalent non-certified ALS course. Participants had to provide written informed consent for anonymous data sharing.

Introduction: Currently professional training in advanced life support (ALS) is most commonly provided by centres certified by the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) or the American Heart Association. Nevertheless, private and public institutions offer similar non-certified ALS trainings. We aimed to compare the perceived training of individuals in a private institution and with a later completed ERC certified ALS course.

Results: We included 10 participants, 30% females, 60% within 2 years after completion of medical school. Six of ten (60%) reported no difference in self-assessed performance or skills after completing an ERC certified ALS course.

Conclusion: Our study raises question of certified vs. non-certified training in ALS for moderately experienced providers. Future investigations with larger sample sizes should focus on differences in content, teaching material and objectively assessed performance between certified and non-certified ALS training facilities.

Context: Existing full text publications in the field:


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