

Abstract W P364: Advanced Stroke Life Support: Making a Difference in Stroke Care

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Stroke. 2015;46:AWP364

Abstract

Background and Purpose: A Comprehensive Stroke Center provides many opportunities for interactions with smaller facilities. Needs identified by our community facility partners was a standardized and effective neurological assessment of the stroke patient that could be performed by all staff and staff stroke education. Investigation into the Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) course provided information that would serve as a blueprint to resolve both education needs.

Method: Six staff members were certified as ASLS Instructors. ASLS course has been provided using didactic and hands on participation for scoring of patients with the Miami Emergency Neurologic Deficit (MEND) exam and stroke education. Participants were given a pre-test at the beginning of the educational experience, followed by a post test at the conclusion of class. Lectures included overview of five major stroke syndromes, basic MEND exam knowledge and scoring requirements, followed by review of treatment options and care provided once hospitalized. The learning opportunity was enhanced by interactive hands on session by each participant through performing the MEND exam on fellow participants and scoring of the MEND exam on scenario based test patients. Use of the interactive practice session with immediate feedback from instructors was key elements of student satisfaction and perceived learning during the educational experience.

Results: Initial class evaluations and changes in pre and post test scores indicate an increase in participant stroke knowledge. 47 of 50 failed the pre-test with scores ranging from 35 to 85. Upon posttest all participants passed with scores ranging from 80 to 100. There was an increase in proficiency using the MEND exam from the initial practice session to use during the test patient scenarios. Additional survey results will be obtained using post class value analysis survey at least three months after class completion to demonstrate participants' ability to apply knowledge to practice setting.

Conclusion: Completion of ASLS course provides an increase of stroke knowledge that promotes application of information learned to care of stroke patients in practice settings.

- Author Disclosures: **A. Jones:** None. **G. Campbell:** None.

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