Comparing Teaching Methods in Resource-Limited Countries

In Reply:

As Dr. Al-Musawi states, hands-on clinical experience is an invaluable component of medical education. Our intention was not to suggest that online education can wholly replace hands-on learning, but rather should be seen as a viable method of augmenting and sustaining emergency care education worldwide. Our study conclusively demonstrated that classroom-based learning and online learning were equivalent in terms of knowledge acquisition by participating students. These results suggest that effective, online, core curriculum can serve as a scaffolding for an adjunct applied clinical curriculum, thus enabling countries with severely limited numbers of trained faculty to concentrate those human resources on leading hands-on workshops, simulation exercises, and emergency care drills, as well as engaging students in clinical bedside instruction. By designing a locally adaptable, online program, we can jumpstart knowledge acquisition, build partnerships, and enhance the pace of emergency care development in resource-limited settings.

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