



ORAL PRESENTATION

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Foot ulcer simulation training (FUST): are podiatrists FUST with long-term clinical confidence?

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Background

Foot ulcers are a leading cause of diabetes-related hospitalisations. Clinical training has been shown to be beneficial in foot ulcer management. Recently, improved self-confidence in podiatrists was reported immediately after foot ulcer simulation training (FUST) pilot programs. This study aimed to investigate the longer-term impacts of the FUST program on podiatrists' self-confidence over 12 months in a larger sample.

Methods

Participants were podiatrists attending a two-day FUST course comprising web-based interactive learning, low-fidelity part-tasks and high-fidelity full clinical scenarios. Primary outcome measures included participants' self-confidence measured pre-, (immediately) post-, 6-month post- and 12-month post-course via a purpose designed 21-item survey using a five-point Likert scale (1=Very limited, 5=Highly confident). Participants' perceptions of knowledge gained, satisfaction, relevance and fidelity were also investigated. ANOVA and post hoc tests were used to test any differences between groups.

Results

Thirty-four participants completed FUST. Survey response rates were 100% (pre), 82% (post), 74% (6-month post), and 47% (12-month post). Overall mean scores were 3.13 (pre), 4.49 (post), 4.35 (6-month post) and 4.30 (12-month post) ($p < 0.05$); post hoc tests indicated no differences between the immediately, 6-month and 12-month post

group scores ($p > 0.05$). Satisfaction, knowledge, relevance and fidelity were all rated highly.

Conclusion

This study suggests that significant short-term improvements in self-confidence to manage foot ulcers via simulation training are retained over the longer term. It is likely that improved self-confidence leads to improved foot ulcer clinical practice and outcomes; although this requires further research.

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