ALERT protocol: Efficiency of an e-learning training in a non-Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) Emergency Medical Services centres

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Objectives

The dispatcher's window is a precious time period during which dispatchers may help bystanders make a dramatic difference in victim's outcome[1]. We previously demonstrated that the ALERT algorithm, a simple and effective compression-only phone CPR protocol, has the potential to help bystanders initiate CPR[2, 3]. However, using the ALERT protocol requires knowledge acquisition and continuous dispatcher's training. The present study compares the cost-effectiveness of e-learning training process versus classical ex-cathedra courses.

Methods

All dispatchers from Liege 112 dispatching centre (n = 35) were prospectively distributed into 2 training groups: e-learning versus ex-cathedra. We used a form to evaluate the acquisition of knowledge and we evaluated the costs of two training methods in order to obtain a cost-effectiveness ratio ICER (Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratio) to objectify their efficiency. [4]

Reference

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Results

Expenses for ex-cathedra and e-learning methods were similar as concern the early implementation of the protocol. However, further training was considerably less expensive using the e-learning process (2200 € vs.150 €). Both types of training were effective in terms of learning gain (51.0% vs. 46.7%; p=NS), but   ICER revealed that the ex-cathedra courses required an additional cost of 19,6 € to earn 1% of quality adjusted student education.
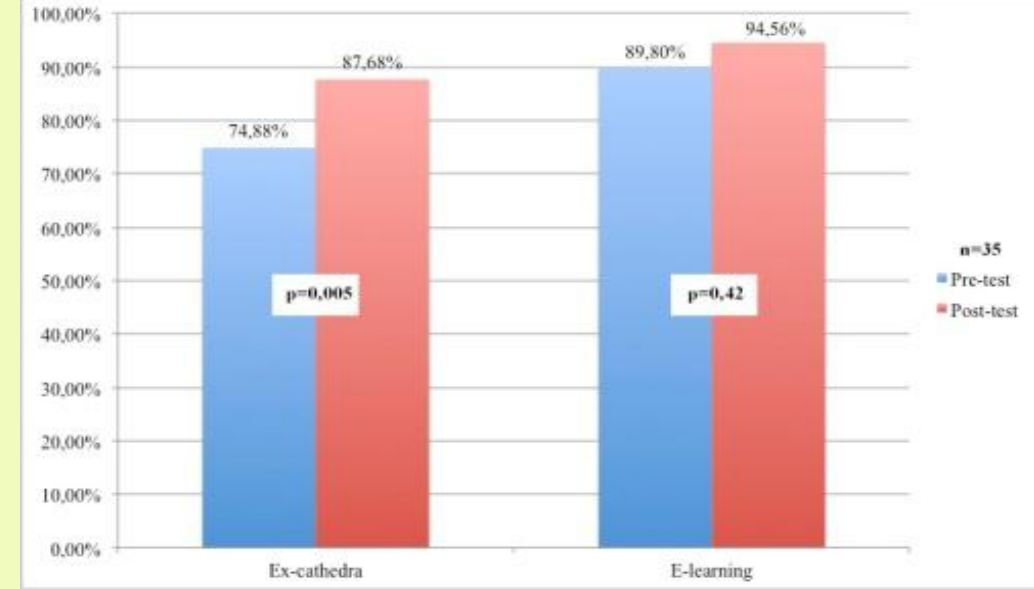

Figure 1: Comparison of results of knowledge ALERT protocol depending on the method of training
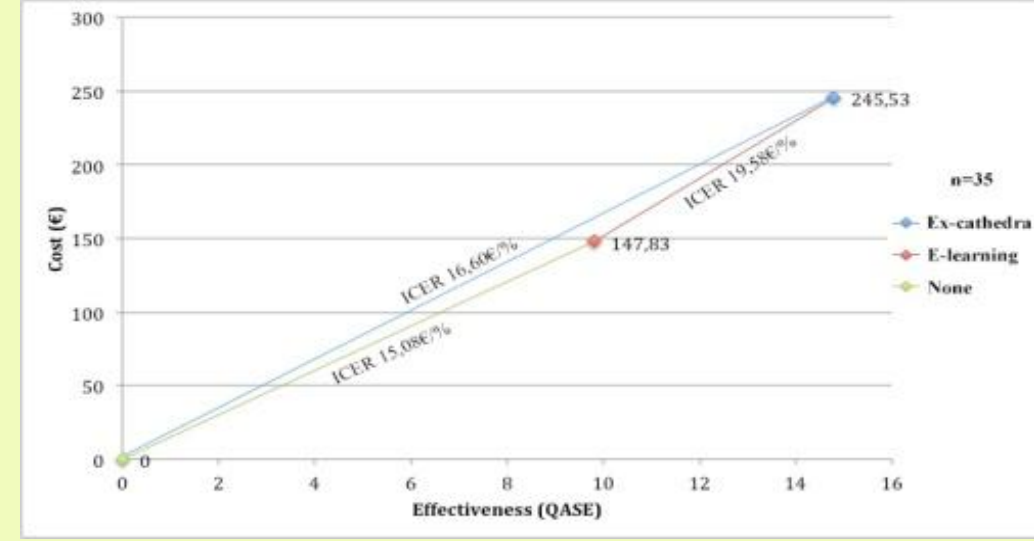

Figure 2 :Comparison of efficiency of training methods based on QASE. (Quality Adjusted Student Education)

Conclusion

Compared with the method ex-cathedra, e-learning for teaching the ALERT protocol provided in the dispatching 112 Liege is efficient.

keywords

DISPATCHING
PHONE CPR
E LEARNING