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Effect of skill lab training for intravenous cannulation on performance and satisfaction in undergraduate veterinary students - preliminary results

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Background

The present study aims to demonstrate an improvement of intravenous cannulation skills after skill lab implementation for final year veterinary students.

Materials and methods

Previous experience, confidence to place an intravenous (iv) cannula and the success rate of iv cannula placement were evaluated in final-year veterinary students by using a questionnaire. First, the students enrolled in the study filled a questionnaire containing questions to determine previous experience and their personal opinion on the usefulness of mannequin experience, theoretical courses and their confidence to perform the cannulation successfully. Next, all students practiced iv cannulation during clinical rotation and their performance was recorded by auto-evaluation. Results were analysed by Chi-square tests where appropriate.

Results

Sixty-one students enrolled in the “non-experienced” group (NonExp), 38 students enrolled in the “clinical experience” (ClinExp) group, 35 students enrolled in the “skill lab group” (SkillLab), and 12 students in the group with experience in both, clinical and skill lab mannequin (ClinSkil).

Previous experience was significantly different among groups with 77 % of the NonExp students have placed less than 5 catheters in dogs and 74% of the ClinExp group have placed more than 5 catheters before starting their clinical rotation. Students of all groups felt equally confident to place an iv cannula successfully. In the SkillLab group, 43 % of the students felt that mannequin training helped them placing an iv cannula, while 34% thought that mannequin experience did not help them and 23% had no opinion on this question. Success rate of iv cannula placement during clinical rotation was not significantly different among groups but tended to be higher in students that felt more confident.

Conclusion

The preliminary data presented here fails to demonstrate a difference between skill lab and clinical experience in iv cannula placement in final year veterinary students.