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Improving obstetric ultrasound skills through outreach training

Yasmin Casmol

University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Obstetric ultrasound has become an essential part of antenatal care, proving to be a useful examination during pregnancy, however many women in sub Saharan Africa will receive no obstetric ultrasounds throughout their pregnancy. Improving antenatal care is an important step towards the reduction of maternal and perinatal mortality. The International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynaecology (ISUOG) Outreach Program was created to promote the education and training of ultrasound in underserved communities around the world with the goal of enhancing maternal and perinatal health. The purpose of the outreach program is to train local Sudanese trainees basic skills in Obstetrics & Gynaecology ultrasound via theoretical and hands-on-training with the intention of, improving the quality of skilled professionals in a low-resource setting, increasing the level of anomaly identification, aiding in reducing mortality rates and improving skills of selected trainees to become future trainers. The outreach is conducted in three phases, the program commenced in November 2016. To date phase I & phase II have been completed and phase III is scheduled for November 2018. The trainees were selected following an active selection process conducted by both the Ministry of Health and the University of Kordofan. The trainees consisted of 30 dedicated obstetricians/radiologists from the state of North Kordofan who displayed enthusiasm during the theoretical and practical training which was provided daily. Pre and post tests were held at the beginning and end of each phase. Phase I demonstrated an almost 30% increase with the score at 60% in the first trimester and 67% in the second trimester. A successful phase I & II were concluded with certificates of achievement awarded to each participant and through commitment, dedication and enthusiasm maternal healthcare services in Sudan will be improved.

yasminc@uj.ac.za