



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 733

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Evaluation on an in-house educational program for midwives on basic obstetric ultrasonography

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Keywords:

obstetric ultrasound course

practicing midwives

evaluation

ultrasound examination

hands-on practice

Maternal Fetal Medicine

Introduction

Ultrasound examination has been integrated in the management of both normal and abnormal pregnancies. In Hong Kong, trained midwives are now performing dating scan and fetal nuchal translucency measurement in universal prenatal screening for Down syndrome, or even fetal morphological and growth assessments in some units in the Hospital Authority. To meet with the increasing demand, as the initial step, an in-house theoretical obstetric ultrasound course for practicing midwives was organized by the Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) Team of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology from 8 March to 24 April 2013. The objective of this course was to equip midwives with basic knowledge on obstetric ultrasonography.

Objectives

To evaluate the effectiveness of an in-house educational program for midwives on basic obstetric ultrasonography

Methodology

The course consisted of total six hours lectures divided into four days with topics covered gestational assessment in the first and second trimesters, assessment of fetal growth, liquor volume and placenta, routine scan, ultrasonographic markers of chromosomal abnormalities, assessment of multiple pregnancy, Down syndrome screening and invasive diagnostic procedures, reporting and interpretation of ultrasound result and new technology in prenatal diagnosis. Four obstetricians and two midwives from the MFM Team were responsible to deliver the lectures for the above topics. Comprehensive notes and reading materials were provided before the lectures to facilitate pre-reading and recap of background knowledge later. Evaluation of the course contents and the quality of the speakers of each lectures were collected for further improvement of this educational program. For those midwives interested in hands-on practice, three clinical attachments to the MFM centre were arranged for them to experience how obstetric ultrasound examinations were performed and to

integrate their knowledge with the real clinical application.

Result

There were a total of 31 midwives attended the theoretical course and 15 midwives attached to the MFM centre to experience the hands-on practice. The evaluation forms were analyzed. Most of the midwives (95.6%) used their own time to attend the course. All midwives (100%) agreed on the following items: the program was useful and informative, the aims and objectives were clear, overall learning objectives were achieved, the learning-teaching activities were congruent with the overall program objectives and content, the speaker had demonstrated up-to-date professional knowledge and expertise in the content area and the facility was appropriate, 97.8% found the teaching method was appropriate and 91.2% commented the length of the program was about right. On completion of the theoretical obstetric ultrasound course, three midwives were selected for intensive hands-on training on practical scanning skill this year. They will attend both the theory and practical assessments organized by the Hospital Authority in 2014 upon satisfactory internal assessment by our MFM specialists. Practical training on scanning skill will be continued for other midwives in the department. Conclusion Our department can organize in house educational program which provides a solid foundation for many midwives who would be trained to perform obstetric ultrasound in the department. Most of them were willing to use their own time to broaden their knowledge which is useful in their daily practice. The feedbacks were encouraging with high satisfaction from the participants. The trained midwives will support the increasing workload to meet service need in future.