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Article type : Letter to Editor

Response to “Telling the whole story about simulation-based education”

Sir,

We thank Barsuk et al. for their letter, “Telling the whole story about simulation-based education” (1).

We acknowledge that our paper, “The cost of local, multi-professional obstetric emergencies training”(2), focussed on the cost of training and did not elaborate on cost savings, value for money or return on investment (ROI). The authors’ call for a ROI analysis is welcome. Others have estimated the potential savings of obstetric training (3). We are conducting a more comprehensive economic evaluation and our study is the first part of a cost-utility analysis of obstetric-based simulation training. This cost-utility analysis aims to quantify the overall cost savings and benefits associated with multi-professional obstetric training that has avoided permanent brachial plexus injuries.

We realise that this will address only one patient outcome, but our hypothesis is that this will adequately demonstrate that local, multi-professional obstetric emergencies training can be cost-effective, as long as it is effective.

The purpose of the paper was to highlight the often forgotten, yet significant cost of training. Rather than discouraging investment in training, this information should instead encourage maternity units to carefully review the evidence base before implementing any simulation or training packages. We felt that this first stage was important enough to warrant publishing ahead of our planned economic evaluation.

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