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Development of a list of essential obstetric anaesthetic knowledge and skills for interns in a department of anaesthesiology

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Abstract

Background

Community service medical officers often practice obstetric anaesthesia without supervision, and complications can occur if they are not adequately equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills. This study aims to develop a list of essential obstetric anaesthetic knowledge and skills for interns in a department of anaesthesiology.

Methods and results

A prospective, exploratory, and instrumental study design using Lynn's Model of determination and quantification of content validity was followed. The Developmental Stage involved an extensive literature review, followed by a peer group discussion with expert local anesthesiologists with a special interest in obstetric anaesthesia. Each item on the list was debated until consensus was reached. This stage resulted in a list with 59 items. In the Judgement -Quantification Stage, this list was sent to expert anaesthesiologists with a special interest in obstetric anaesthesia nationally for validation. The anaesthesiologists used a four-point Likert scale ranging from unnecessary to essential information to grade each item. Fifty-seven of the 59 items were deemed essential and retained. This entire list was quantified using the content validity index (CVI). Lynn suggests that a content list should have a CVI of at least 0.8. The list was content valid with a CVI of 0.98.

Conclusion

This study presents a comprehensive list of essential knowledge and skills for interns in obstetric anaesthesia in the Wits Department of Anaesthesiology that may contribute to interns practising obstetric anaesthesia more safely.