

EIGHTH THERAPEUTIC ENDOSCOPY COURSE FOR ENDOSCOPY NURSE ASSISTANTS AND NURSE CONSULTANTS (TECNA), BRISTOL, 11 FEBRUARY 2011

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Dr. Amanda Beale, Dr. R. Saravanan, Jayne Tillett and Jadranka Brijak (from left to right)

The TECNA course was developed by Dr. Ramasamy Saravanan following a period he spent in Toronto, Canada. A pilot course was run at Bristol Royal Infirmary in 2008, and the courses are now held twice a

year – one in Bristol and the second in Manchester. The course is recognized by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) as an accreditation unit with a value of 8 study hours.

To date, 300 nurses have attended the course, including delegates from the UK and other countries, both from Britain's National Health Service and the private sector. The course is supported by the industry and by a consultant faculty. After each course, delegates are asked to complete a feedback form, which is evaluated in order to develop the course further.

The aims of the course are:

- To enable participants to understand the basic core principles involved in therapeutic endoscopy and the indications for interventional therapy
- To familiarize participants with the equipment used for different procedures and to give them hands-on experience
- To make participants confident in providing assistance during procedures

A total of 55 nurses took part in the course, which consisted of two sections, on theory and practice, with oral presentations on basic procedures such as diathermy and haemostasis. Following seven lectures in the morning, the delegates split up into four groups for the hands-on workstations, with 25 minutes on each of the four stations, with support from the medical companies and their equipment. In the afternoon, the course covered emergency endoscopy, dilation and other topical issues, with further practical skills at workstations.

The course is a valuable learning tool for endoscopy nurses. It is held in good locations and is provided with good technical equipment, as well as offering concise course documentation, knowledgeable speakers and expertise from the endoscope manufacturers.

Although we have 52 years of endoscopy experience between us, on reflection we nevertheless came away from this day with improved knowledge and skills. The course has a high standard and is a valuable method of learning. We enjoyed meeting all the delegates and we would like to thank the organizers for inviting us to take part. Further information about TECNA is available at www.tecnainfo.com

Jadranka Brijak and Jayne Tillett, ESGENA Board members



TECNA Hands-on Workshop Area