

## A Prospective Survey on Therapeutic Endoscopy Training for Endoscopy Nurse Assistants.

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### INTRODUCTION:

There are currently no mandatory formalised training courses for endoscopy nurse assistants despite the longstanding recognized need for such courses (1). The recent UK comparative audit of upper gastrointestinal bleeding emphasized the need for the appropriate skill mix for emergency therapeutic endoscopy (2). In addition, the high therapeutic burden associated with the introduction of bowel cancer screening has increased the need for highly skilled nurses. The TECNA course was developed primarily to train endoscopy nurse assistants in assisting therapeutic endoscopy procedures and is currently accredited by the University of the West of England for 20 credits on completion of the evidencing work based learning modules.

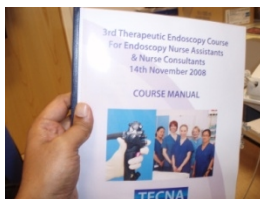


### AIMS & METHODS

A prospective survey on the impact of formal therapeutic endoscopy training for endoscopy nurse assistants who attended the Therapeutic Endoscopy Course for Nurse Assistants and Nurse Consultants (TECNA course).

Forty eight endoscopy nurse assistants attended the TECNA course (Bristol Royal Infirmary) and were surveyed prospectively, responding to a pre course (sent 2 weeks prior) and two post course questionnaires (on the day of the course and 3 months following the course).

### The TECNA course manual



### RESULTS:

- 48 delegates attended from 17 institutions
- 43 (89%) delegates completed the questionnaires
- Median endoscopic experience was 3.5 years (range 0 to 15 years).
- 21/ 43 (49%) had previously attended some form of endoscopy training.
- Prior to the course, 34% considered their therapeutic knowledge to be only basic
- After the course, just 5% considered their therapeutic knowledge to be only basic
- 100% of the delegates felt that their practical skills had been improved by the course
- Confidence in assisting the endoscopist with therapeutic procedures increased from 21 (48%) to 38 (88%) of attendees after the course and this confidence was maintained at 3 months.
- 95% (41/43) of the attendees agreed that all endoscopy nurse assistants should undergo a mandatory training course within the first year of their post on joining an endoscopy unit.

### CONCLUSION:

Just over half of the endoscopy nursing staff attending had no formal training in endoscopy procedures, despite a median time working in an endoscopy unit of 3.5 years. The TECNA training course improved their confidence and ability, and this improvement was maintained for at least 3 months. Formal training for all endoscopy nurse assistants in therapeutic skills is desirable and ideally should be undertaken within the first year of joining an endoscopy unit. Funding of such courses remains the major barrier to wider uptake of such courses. Central funding for such courses should be considered

### REFERENCES:

- 1.Provision of gastrointestinal endoscopy and related services for a district general hospital. Working Party of the Clinical Services Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology. Gut 1991. 32(1): 95-105
2. UK Comparative Audit of Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding and the use of blood. British Society of Gastroenterology ([www.bsg.org.uk](http://www.bsg.org.uk))