Debriefing virtual simulation: The evidence and recommendations

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Why Debrief?

• Essential to simulation learning
  • Enhances learning

• Reflection attaches meaning to the experience
  • Increases self-awareness
  • Increases self-efficacy
  • Leads to new interpretations
  • Part of the experiential learning cycle

• Clinical significance
  • Transfer of knowledge, skills, and attitudes
  • Development of best practices
  • Development of professional role
  • Clarifies decisions made
Debriefing Standards INACSL (2016)

• The debrief is facilitated by a person(s) competent in the process of debriefing.
• The debrief is conducted in an environment that is conducive to learning and supports confidentiality, trust, open communication, self-analysis, feedback, and reflection.
• The debrief is facilitated by a person(s) who can devote enough concentrated attention during the simulation to effectively debrief the simulation-based experience.
• The debrief is based on a theoretical framework for debriefing that is structured in a purposeful way.
• The debrief is congruent with the objectives and outcomes of the simulation-based experience.
Debriefing Virtual Simulations
Debriefing Research

Feature Article

Comparison of Debriefing Methods after a Virtual Simulation: An Experiment

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Pre-game tool completion

Play virtual gaming simulation

Control Group
In-person debrief

Intervention Group
Self-debrief

Intervention Group
Synchronous virtual debrief

Post-game tool completion

Focus group
Debriefing Research

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Featured Article

Virtual Gaming Simulation: Exploring Self-Debriefing, Virtual Debriefing, and In-person Debriefing

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Combination of Debriefs

Featured Article

Comparison of Self-Debriefing Alone or in Combination With Group Debrief

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KEYWORDS
virtual simulation; debriefing

Abstract

Background: Self-debrief alone and in combination with group debrief methods has not been well studied. Self-debriefing is considered a cornerstone of debriefing, yet little research has been conducted on it.

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Combining Debriefing Formats

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Featured Article

Exploring Debriefing Combinations After a Virtual Simulation

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Combining Self-Debriefing and Group Debriefing in Simulation

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Recommendations

• Debrief virtual simulation
• Choose a debriefing format based on learning outcomes and student needs/level ie self-debrief, virtual synchronous debrief, combined debrief and in-person
• As much as possible use the INACSL Debriefing standards
• Create a psychologically safe debriefing environment
• Use a theoretical framework for your debrief
• If not doing a group debrief immediately after the virtual simulation provide a self-debrief
• Use the analytics in the debrief


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