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## **Simulation training as good as traditional surgical training**

**Friday 19 December, 2014**

Simulation training delivers the same level of proficiency as traditional surgical training an article in the latest issue of the *ANZ Journal of Surgery* says.

The Journal is published for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and the article reports that simulation training could address the future shortfall in educators by teaching large numbers of students for basic surgical procedures.

The story details the prospective study where participants were allocated to cohorts based on their surgical experience, with medical students and interns in a simulation trained group while surgical registrars and experienced surgeons forming the other group.

A total of 138 participants were included from WA, SA and NSW, 101 in the unexperienced cohort and 37 in the second group.

Simulation training was provided to the unexperienced group, with the standard of skills for both groups assessed on one occasion using the simulators inbuilt measuring tools. Demographic and experience data of the cohorts were then compared.

Co-author of the study article Professor Guy Maddern says that simulation training could be seen as the first step in a surgical Trainee's education in laparoscopic procedures.

"This study demonstrates that there was no statistically significant difference between the training outcomes of simulation and traditionally trained participants, irrespective of the simulator type used," Professor Maddern said.

"In order to meet the increased demands being placed on the health-care system, increased numbers of surgeons will be required and surgical education must keep pace."

"This simulation training can give a good entry level standard to large groups of students with similar results to traditional training."

"We must always look at ways for delivering efficient yet effective training for the best outcomes of our patients," Professor Maddern said.

*The ANZ Journal of Surgery, published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.*



### **About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)**

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

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