Trainees Attitude to Surgical Simulation in Scotland

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Introduction

The already acknowledged value of surgical simulation has further increased during the COVID-19 pandemic with markedly reduced training opportunities, particularly for junior trainees.[1]

Simulation training (including the EYESI surgical simulator) has been demonstrated to be:	**Cost-effective** **Validated** **Safe**

This study aims to explore the attitudes of ophthalmology trainees in Scotland towards the EYESI simulator.

Method

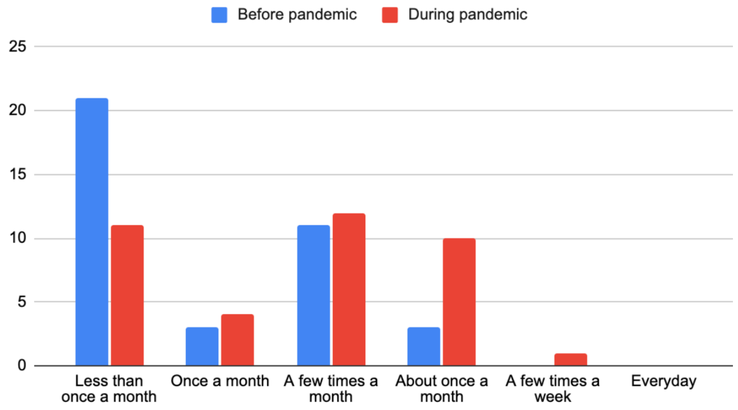
A SurveyMonkey questionnaire was conducted among all ophthalmology trainees in Scotland between August to October 2021. This comprised 10 questions addressing:

(1) Perceptions of surgical simulation
(2) Frequency of simulation activity prior to and during the pandemic
(3) Perceived barriers to accessing surgical simulation.

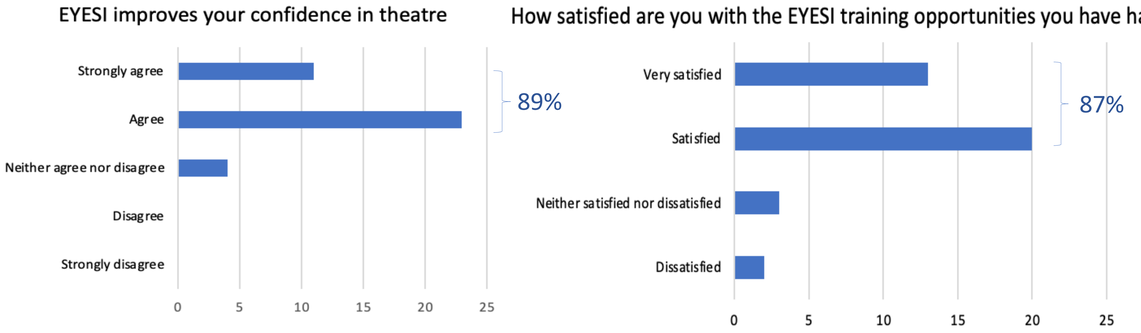
Results

38 responses were collected. The majority were from ST1-3 trainees (22/38, 58%), male (23/38, 61%), aged 25-30 (19/38, 50%). Respondents reported using the simulator less than once a month prior to the pandemic (21/38, 55%). During the pandemic, use varied between a few times a month (12/38, 32%) and once a week (10/38, 26%). The hours of training per month was <5 for 76%.

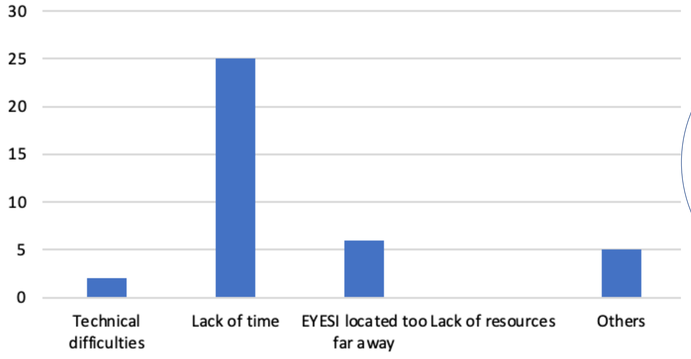
Frequency of EYESI usage before and during the pandemic



Trainees were asked to grade their experience with EYESI using a 5-point Likert scale



Barriers to using EYESI



66%
reported barrier to using EYESI was a perceived lack of time

Conclusion

- Increase in EYESI training time from the trainee perspective
- Trainees feel the simulator improves confidence in theatre
- Simulation requires an ongoing investment from educational bodies
- Time for simulation should be incorporated into training programmes in a structured manner.

Reference:
1. Campbell S, Hind J, Lockington D. Engagement with ophthalmic simulation training has increased following covid-19 disruption-the educational culture change required? [Internet]. Nature News. Nature Publishing Group; 2021 [cited 2022May1]. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41433-021-01494-1