Implementation of the Immediate Life Support (ILS) Course in two peripheral hospitals in Austria

J. Schlieber
A. Benirschke; J. Ehgartner; M. Gschanes; R. Janz; M. Köstenberger; S. Meischl; B. Schmidbauer; M. Weldi

Question
Does the entire medical staff of an Austrian clinic can be trained in the form of an eight hour Immediate Life Support Course.

Methodology
After a half year project preparation according to the Quality Management Handbook of Stolzalpe Hospital, the approval by the hospital's management was given. The first Austrian Immediate Life Support Course was on 26th January 2007. The course is based on the guidelines for ILS courses in the UK.

The target groups are nurses, nursing assistants, radiological and technical services but also doctors in training for general practitioners, ward doctors, civil servants and employees of the clinic patient transport service. Almost all of the speakers have the qualification as ERC ALS Instructors. At each course a maximum of 14 participants are trained. The course runs over eight hours including brakes. Two half-hour lectures in theory are mixed up with approximately five hours of practical exercises (skill stations). Since autumn the Nursing School at Stolzalpe Hospital as well as Hermagor hospital are participating the project. For all participants, with the exception of the nursing students, it is a training day (paid training leave).

Results
In total 381 candidates (32 doctors, 43 nursing students ) in 28 courses have been trained. A participant has prematurely aborted the course because of illness but finished the course in the meantime. The result of the evaluation shows that almost 100% of the participants would recommend the course to their colleagues. Subjectively the participants are reporting a generally safer feeling at work.

Interpretation
The objectives can be achieved by all participants. A uniform resuscitation training (Immediate Life Support Course) within a hospital is possible.

References
Murphy M, Fitzsimmons D. Does attendance at an immediate life support course influence nurses' skill deployment during cardiac arrest. Resuscitation 2004;62:49-54