



AP013

Paediatric Cardiology & Congenital Heart Disease • Poster Presentation

CROSS-TRAINING CATHLAB TEAMS: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN RESOURCE-LIMITED CARDIOVASCULAR CARE SETTINGS

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Background: The cardiac catheterization laboratory is a high-acuity environment where sudden intra-procedural emergencies, such as arrhythmias, no-reflow phenomenon, and hemodynamic instability, demand immediate, coordinated action. While procedural leadership is essential, patient outcomes are often influenced by how effectively the multidisciplinary team functions under pressure. Despite this, gaps in role clarity, communication, and cross-functional training can delay recognition and intervention during critical moments.

Methodology: This presentation adopts a systems-based, observational approach, examining real-time cath lab workflow during acute scenarios. The dynamic roles of cardiologists, nurses, cardiac physiologists, and radiographers are explored, with particular focus on intra-procedural contributions such as physiological monitoring, device support, real-time data interpretation, and active procedural involvement. The impact of cross-training and role awareness on team coordination is evaluated.

Results: Cross-functional familiarity enhances team adaptability, strengthens situational awareness, and enables more efficient task distribution during emergencies. Teams that understand each other's roles demonstrate faster recognition of clinical deterioration, more synchronized interventions, and reduced procedural delays. Active contributions from all team members, including cardiac physiologists in both technical and procedural capacities, further support timely and effective responses.

Conclusions: In the cath lab, successful emergency management depends on collective performance rather than individual roles alone. Cross-training provides a practical strategy to improve coordination, optimize response times, and enhance patient safety. Recognizing the full scope of each team member's contribution reinforces a collaborative model of care essential for managing high-risk, time-critical situations.

Keywords: Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Interdisciplinary Teamwork, Cross-Training, Emergency Preparedness, Patient Safety, Role Clarity