

# **Advanced Training in Obstetrics for Medics Course: A New Simulation-Based Training Program in Obstetric Emergency Management for Emergency Medical Services personnel and US Army Combat Medics**

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## **Background**

Management of obstetric emergencies can be daunting for first responders. They receive very little initial obstetrical training, with no adequate refresher courses which focus on obstetrical scenarios and emergencies such as unexpected vaginal deliveries or management of post-partum hemorrhage. While these occurrences are uncommon, first responders need to be ready to manage these emergent situations, both locally and overseas.

## **Objectives**

The Advanced Training in Obstetrics for Medics (ATOM) course is a new simulation-based course designed specifically for first responders, with the purpose of reviewing basics of obstetrical care and emergency management. We hypothesize that this course will not only augment first responders' knowledge base of obstetrical care, it will reduce angst towards managing obstetric emergencies.

## **Methods**

A pre- and post-ATOM course cross-sectional assessment was administered via Survey Monkey. Participants included civilian EMS personnel and combat medics at Ft Bragg, NC. The assessment evaluated obstetrical knowledge and apprehensions towards obstetric emergency management. Results were compared via Fisher's exact test.

## **Results**

Seventy-one participants completed the study, 40% civilian and 60% military. Pre-assessment results showed 56% of responders felt comfortable delivering a head-first vaginal delivery; post course assessment revealed 96% of participants felt comfortable managing this situation. Knowledge assessment, specifically postpartum hemorrhage management, noted an increase from the overall initial average score of 37% prior to taking the course, to 62% post course.

## **Conclusion**

First responders, both EMS personnel and combat medics, benefit greatly from additional training in obstetric emergencies. Our study shows additional hands-on simulation-based training (as practiced in the ATOM course) not only improves knowledge of obstetric emergencies, it provides the first responder with more confidence and lowers apprehension when encountering obstetrical scenarios.