SAFE

Safer Anaesthesia From Education

Obstetric Anaesthesia Course
Lusaka Zambia

February 10th - 13th 2014

Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland

World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists
Obstetric Anaesthesia Course Lusaka Zambia

We are extremely grateful for the AAGBI grant of £2262 which enabled us to run the 'SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia From Education) Obstetrics' course in Lusaka, Zambia in February 2013.

Background:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 385,000 women die each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In Zambia the overall maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is estimated to be 440 per 100,000 live births. The ‘SAFE Obstetrics’ course aims to reduce maternal mortality by training anaesthetic providers in safe obstetric anaesthetic practice and management of obstetric emergencies.

The majority of obstetric anaesthesia in Zambia are delivered by clinical officers. They undergo two years of anaesthetic training before being allocated to their post. They often work in under-resourced clinical environments and receive minimal continuing professional development. There are currently 120 anaesthetic clinical officers working in Zambia. Anaesthesia is underdeveloped as a medical specialty in Zambia with only a small number of consultant anaesthetists working within the country. To address this problem a postgraduate medical anaesthetic training programme (MMed Anaesthesia) was initiated by the AAGBI and led by Professor John Kinnear in 2011.

Aims:

Our aim is that all anaesthetic providers in Zambia will be able to attend a ‘SAFE Obstetrics’ anaesthesia course by 2016. We aim to run four courses in different locations throughout Zambia. We plan to run the Lifebox course in conjunction with ‘SAFE Obstetrics’ in order to provide a comprehensive obstetric anaesthesia training package. Including both MMed anaesthetic trainees and clinical officers on the course encourages multi-disciplinary working and helps to establish anaesthesia as a cohesive specialty within Zambia.

Grant use:

The generous AAGBI grant of £2262 allowed us to purchase an intubation head model, model spines, two CPR manikins and four neonatal resuscitation manikins. This equipment was integral to the successful running of the first ‘SAFE Obstetrics’ course allowing us to provide practical hand-on training in small groups. The equipment will be used for future ‘SAFE Obstetrics’ courses and ongoing training of the MMed anaesthetic trainees.

'SAFE Obstetrics' & Lifebox Course 10-13th February 2014:

The first course was run at University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka in February 2014. 40 anaesthetic providers attended the course: 30 clinical officers, 7 MMed Anaesthesia trainees and 3 consultant anaesthetists. The training faculty consisted of 3 UK anaesthetic consultants, 3 anaesthetic registrars and 5 MMed trainees (3rd year). The course was co-ordinated by Dr Phil Bonnett and Dr David Snell. A 'Training the Trainers' course was run prior to the
'SAFE Obstetrics' anaesthesia course to equip 3rd year MMed anaesthetic trainees to be involved in delivery of teaching. Pre- and post-course skills assessment demonstrated a dramatic improvement in performance over the duration of the course.

Summary:

The 'SAFE Obstetrics' course aims to equip anaesthetic providers with the skills and knowledge to deliver safe obstetric anaesthesia in a resource-poor setting. The first 'SAFE Obstetrics' anaesthesia course to be run in Zambia was well-received with demonstrable improvement in clinical performance of anaesthetic providers and excellent feedback. We are on target to deliver the 'SAFE Obstetrics' course to all anaesthetic providers in Zambia by 2016. The next course will take place in October 2014 in Livingstone.

Course photos: