

Simulation as Preparation for Sensitive Conversations

A Thematic Analysis of Foundation Doctors' Views

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Introduction

- Foundation Doctors face challenging sensitive conversations in clinical practice- **breaking bad news , death and dying conversations**
- Simulation allows experiential learning and a safe environment for learners to try out new concepts
- conversation with colleagues and reading literature revealed a potential gap in the preparation of foundation doctors, for this difficult skill.

Aims

Using a mixed method study, to explore Foundation Doctors' views on their preparation for sensitive conversations the role of simulation plays in this .

Methods

Written Questionnaires presented to all Foundation doctors participating in mandatory simulation sessions in NHS Lothian. Participants then self-selected to undertake further in-depth Interviews.

Interviews were recorded, transcribed and thematic Analysis Conducted on both these and questionnaire responses.

Results

42 respondents and 11 interviewees

Female > Male; FY1 > FY2

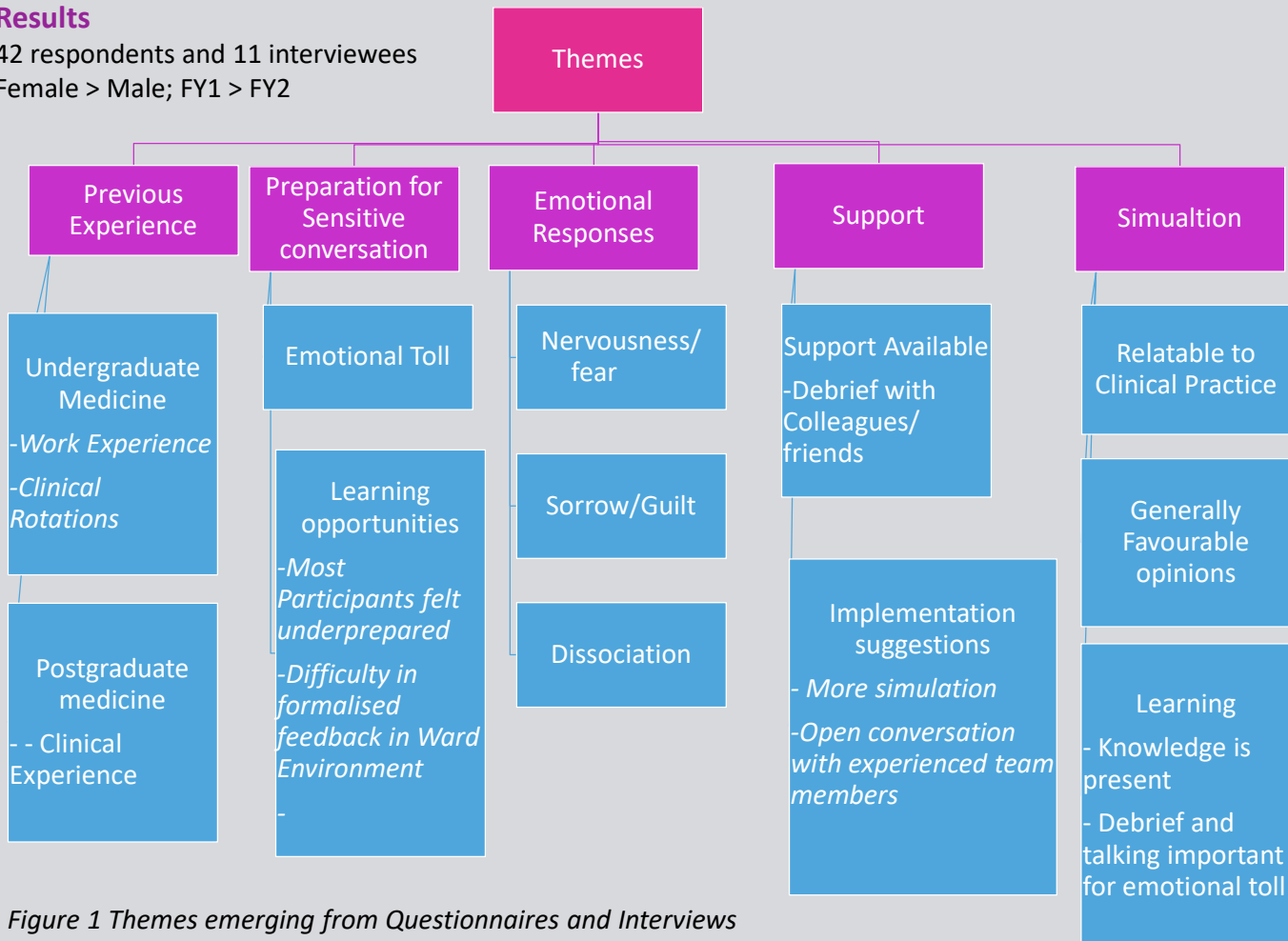


Figure 1 Themes emerging from Questionnaires and Interviews

Conclusions

- Sensitive conversations can trigger anxiety, fear of judgement, and a feeling of being underprepared and this can also be seen during simulated conversations.
- Simulation can help to build skills and confidence in handling sensitive conversations evidenced by the demand for more simulation, structured debriefing, and senior support.
- The not-insignificant personal burden disclosed. requires a more holistic, approach in simulation is needed to better prepare doctors for the emotional demands of this challenging aspect of clinical practice.
- Further study is required to identify this medium