

What Are Resident Anaesthetists' Preferences on the Chronology of Their ACCS CT2 Placements?

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Introduction

- Year 2 (CT2) of ACCS Anaesthetics training includes 6-month placements in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine (ICM).
- The chronology of these placements varies both inter-individually and inter-regionally.
- The practical skills and knowledge learnt from one placement can influence the experience gained and the depth of involvement in the subsequent placement.
- This study aimed to explore the perceptions of anaesthetic resident doctors on the chronology of these placements.

Methods

- A phenomenological qualitative study was conducted.
- An anonymous survey was sent out to recent CT2s in the Warwickshire School of Anaesthesia (n=10).
- Thematic analysis was conducted on the responses to white space questions using Nvivo Qualitative Data Analysis Software.
- Member checking was performed, and a reflexivity journal was maintained to reduce bias.

Results

- All ten participants would choose to complete anaesthetics before ICM.
- Nine of the ten participants had completed their placements in that order.

Many Benefits

- Wellbeing: reduced burnout, structured learning
- Clinical growth: improved airway, emergencies, human factors
- Service impact: better ICM support, peer teaching

Few Drawbacks

- Deskilling before anaesthetic on-calls in CT3
- Limited ICM procedural opportunities; conflict with non-medical practitioners
- Most reported minimal or no downsides

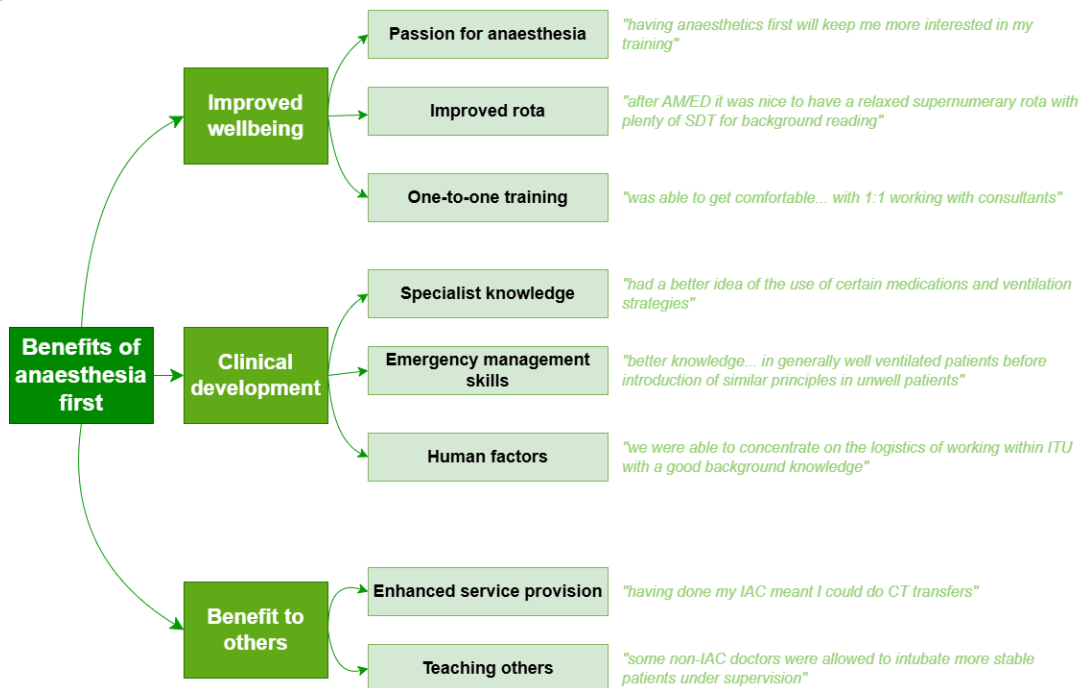


Figure 1: Benefits of anaesthesia first

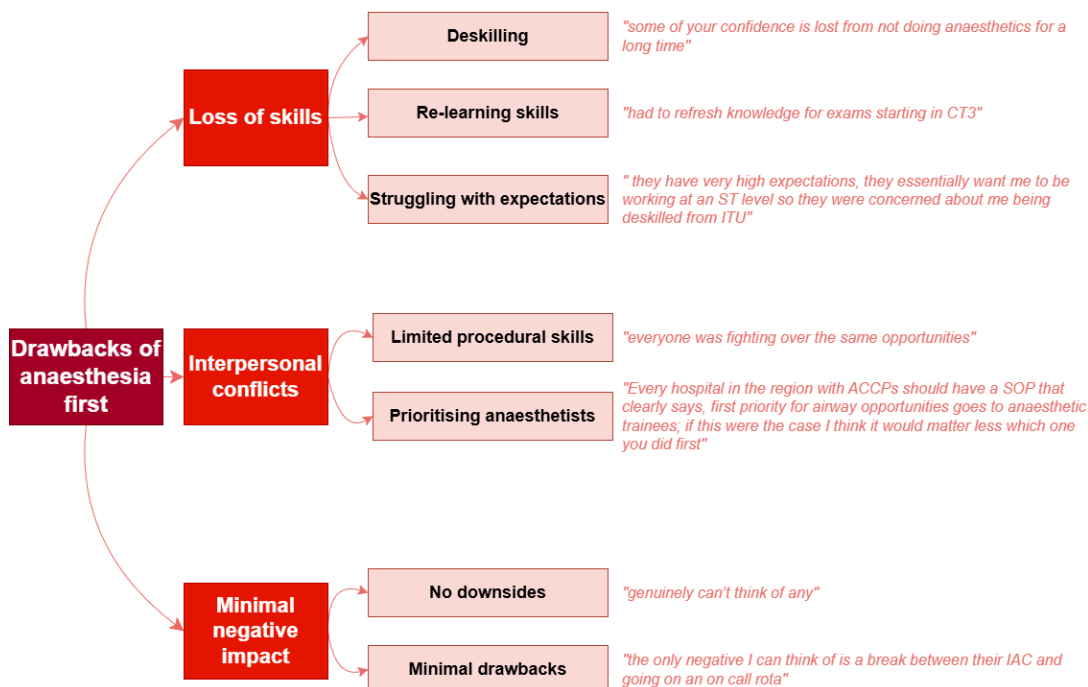


Figure 2: Drawbacks of anaesthesia first

Conclusion

- Completing anaesthetics first boosts confidence and competence.
- Some drawbacks were reported but they were generally outweighed by the benefits.
- There was an emphatic and consistent preference for this sequence.