

Toma C.<sup>1</sup>, Vandra M.<sup>2</sup>, Popescu R.I.<sup>2</sup>, Sima C.S.<sup>1</sup>, Chirca N.<sup>3</sup>, Dumitrache M.<sup>2</sup>, Petca R.<sup>1</sup>, Badescu D.<sup>1</sup>, Jinga V.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Dept. of Urology, Bucharest, Romania, <sup>2</sup>Clinical Hospital, Dept. of Urology, Bucharest, Romania,

<sup>3</sup>University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Dept. of Urology, Bucharest, Romania

**Introduction & Objectives:** Basic laparoscopic workshops either on box trainers, virtual simulator or pulsating organ trainers are demonstrated to improve the skills of junior urology residents. Most of the evaluating tools used include timing exercises, “serious gaming” activities, evaluation forms which are usually made within a short period of time after the workshop has been attended. We followed a group of 22 junior urology residents with no or scarce laparoscopic experience who attended a basic workshop on pelvic trainers 12 month ago in February 2018. The purpose of the follow up was to assess if this type of training is worth the allocated time, human resources and funding.

**Materials & Methods:** A group of 22 junior urology residents ( years 1, 2 and 3 of residency) with no or minimal laparoscopic experience attended a basic laparoscopic skills workshop one year ago when they were trained into acquiring skills like space orientation, instrument manipulation, knots and sutures. After one year of clinical practice we evaluated the evolution of the residents and their perception regarding this practical activity. This assessment was done by anonymously completing an online form.

**Results:** 91% of urologists were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of activity, 54,5% of them participated at least 20 laparoscopic interventions, 18,2% out of the total number attended at >40 interventions, 45,5% had the possibility to realize intra-operative steps such as dissection, knot tying, suturing etc. 54,5% of the participants to this study attended at least 1 other laparoscopic workshop in these 12 months, while 27,3% respectively 18,2% attended 2 respectively 3 other medical simulation workshops in this region of interest. 63,6% of the participants rated the workshop with 4/5 with respect to improving orientation abilities, 90,9% (4 or 5 out of 5) admit that this activity was suitable to learn the instruments and their handling. The suturing and knot tying skills were marked with 4/5 (62%) at the end of the workshop in 2018 and at the one year follow up they were marked with 3/5 by the majority (45,5%) proving that these 2 abilities are more difficult to learn and master.

**Conclusions:** The 12 months follow-up after the basic laparoscopic workshop for 22 junior residents shows that the young doctors found this activity to be useful to their day to day practice with the mentioning that knot tying and suturing are still difficult to teach on a short term with the risk of maintaining the participants confidence/self-evaluation at the same level or even lower. When asked if they prefer to redo the same workshop within 2019 all of the residents voted yes.