

## ACLS – March 31 2012 – April 1 2012

The operating room is an environment that changes rapidly. In our treatment of patients we can experience changes in their cardiac status. These changes are stressful and need immediate treatment in order for the best patient outcome to occur. Due to the increasing complexity of the patients being treated I felt that additional training is necessary to be a vital team member during incidences that may occur within an operating room setting. Anaesthesia is a fine balance of creating surgical environments and keeping patients alive. Often we are trying to keep patients alive through a procedure that is very demanding on their physiology. As a result we can run into situations where patient's condition can deteriorate rapidly and we as healthcare providers need to react quickly and from evidence based knowledge. The advanced cardiac life support course supplies information and skills that are needed to respond to these situations. Managing airways and understanding some of the basic heart rhythms that can present are important skills to master in a critical care setting.

This course helped prepare me for those times when communication and understanding are important and also improved my knowledge in regards to airway management. Just this past week I have applied some of the basic skills taught in the advanced cardiac life support course to the situations that I was involved in. I felt more comfortable applying the skills that were taught after practising during the course.

One aspect of the advanced cardiac life support course that helped me tremendously is the knowledge and application of closed loop communication during a critical time. By practising closed loop communication in a controlled setting it becomes easier to use it during critical incidences. Although not a direct part, the course gave a basic outline on some of the principles of closed loop communication and provided scenarios as opportunities to practice those techniques.

Overall this course has provided multiple learning opportunities and has increased my overall knowledge of physiology and medical management of acute conditions. Another aspect of the course that I was able to appreciate and start learning was the closed loop communication used during code scenarios.