

108 The Haunted ED: A Simulated Emergency Medicine Experience with a Halloween Twist

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Background: Simulated patient encounters offer a dynamic and interactive teaching modality to engage learners. They can be used for formal instruction but also informally to generate excitement about emergency medicine. Halloween offers an opportunity to create a festive and theme-based simulation experience for learners.

Objectives:

- 1) To foster medical student interest in emergency medicine through a high-fidelity simulator and standardized patient activity embedded in a Halloween theme.
- 2) To expose students to select core content areas of emergency medicine.

Curricular design: Five scenarios were created with specific learning objectives spanning the topics of cardiac arrest, trauma, and toxicology. Each scenario featured a Halloween based narrative and character. For each station there was a patient- who could be a simulator, person in costume, or inanimate creature – and a guide to help students through the case. Students were introduced to each station through a doorway instruction sheet and then had 15 minutes to complete the encounter. Four emergency medicine faculty and four emergency medicine residents served as characters or guides. Twenty-three medical students from all years of training participated in the Haunted ED working in groups of two or three. The following day they were sent an online survey to provide feedback on their experience.

Impact/Effectiveness: Feedback from the students was uniformly positive with 83% of students (19/23) responding to the survey. Seventy-four percent of respondents identified the Haunted ED as one of the best learning activities they have participated in as a medical student. In terms of amount of perceived learning, 32% of students identified as having learned a great amount and 53% as learning an exceptional amount. All respondents stated the Haunted ED should be held again next year. The Haunted ED proved to be an enjoyable and high-yield activity to provide students with exposure to emergency medicine.

Name	Type	Topic	Narrative
The Undead	Simulator	V Fib Arrest	Students enter the room to find an unresponsive simulator dressed as a trick-or-treater who has been poisoned by bad candy. Upon initiating ACLS, the students will find the patient to be in PEA arrest. They should run or be guided through the differential diagnosis of PEA. They must treat for hyperkalemia to achieve return of spontaneous circulation.
Flesh Wound	Simulator	Penetrating chest trauma	Students enter the room to find a simulator dressed as a vampire who has been stabbed in the chest. They should be guided in conducting a primary trauma survey. Upon identifying the pneumothorax, they can practice chest tube placement on the simulator.
Twice Bitten	Standardized Patient	Black widow and copperhead envenomation	Students enter the room to find Frankenstein complaining of severe abdominal pain. They should perform a history and physical exam. A clue to the etiology of the abdominal pain is the sharp pain experienced in the upper back just prior to onset of pain while Frankenstein was standing in the dark corner of the dungeon. Time permitting, Frankenstein subsequently develops leg swelling and pain. He was unfortunately also bit by a snake while in the dungeon. Indications, risks, benefits, and costs of CroFab are discussed.
Witch's Brew	Standardized Patient	Toxic alcohol poisoning	Students enter the room to find a witch in distress after finding one of her flying monkeys difficult to arouse. In talking with the witch, they learn that she fears the monkey accidentally drank some of her potent and blue brew. After initial questioning, the students can be provided with lab tests revealing a profound anion gap acidosis from ethylene glycol poisoning. Treatment is discussed.
Strange Man	Standardized Patient	Carbon monoxide poisoning	Students enter the room to find an alien creature complaining of a severe headache. The room is dark because electrical power had been lost, and the spaceship is now operating off a back-up generator. As a clue to carbon monoxide poisoning, the alien notes that he feels fine when off the spaceship but in pain while on it. The students should be guided through the differential diagnosis of acute headache followed by the diagnosis and treatment of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Figure 1.



*Sometimes in medicine strange things we
must do.
For this patient would normally be trying
to bite you.*

*But not tonight, you see, for your help he
does require.
Without it, he most assuredly will expire.*

*It is OK to be afraid, but you must have
the courage to act.
I promise your life will be spared; it's part
of the pact.*

Doorway Instruction Sheet

Figure 2.