A Novel Expert Coaching Model in Urology, Aimed at Accelerating the Learning Curve in Robotic Prostatectomy

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INTRODUCTION
Formalized coaching programs for surgeons in practice are rare due to a variety of barriers

OBJECTIVE
To implement an expert peer–led, video-based surgical coaching program and evaluate its implementation, engagement, and utility.

METHODS
- Six surgeons who perform RALP
- One expert coach
- 3 sessions, ~6 weeks apart
- Discussions recorded, coded for themes
- Surgeons and coach completed an exit survey
RESULTS:
- All 6 surgeons completed 3 sessions
- The average time between sessions was 7.1 weeks.
- Most respondents evaluated themselves as having improved in desired areas and feeling more confident performing the steps of the operation discussed during sessions.
- Discussion directed by surgical RALP steps varied by experience group
- The surgeons thought this program provoked critical discussion; they subsequently made modifications to their technique, and “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they would sign up for further sessions

CONCLUSIONS:
- Surgical coaching at a large medical center is not only feasible but was rated positively by surgeons across all levels of experience. Coaching may shorten the learning curve for complex surgeries and offers surgeons a safe space to acquire new skills.