

Breaking bad news

Breaking [bad news](#) is a difficult [task](#) in medical practice. Several breaking-bad-news [training](#) programs have been proposed. However, long-term results of such training have rarely been investigated. The aim of a study was to compare the short- and long-term evaluations by young neurosurgeons of a training program for breaking bad news to patients and their parents.

Between 2012 and 2015, [pediatric neurosurgery residents](#) participated in a training day on breaking bad news in pediatric neurosurgery with professional actors. A personal [debriefing](#), followed by a theoretical session, completed the training. Immediate feedback was evaluated through a [survey](#) administered at the end of the day. Long-term results were explored via an online form sent at least 3 years after the training completion.

Seventeen participants from 9 different countries were interviewed. Their immediate feedback confirmed their interest. For 71% of them, the program was very interesting, and 77% were extremely satisfied or very satisfied. All trainees wanted more training sessions. At a mean of 4.5 years of follow-up (range 3-6 years), 71% of the trainees fully remembered the session. Most of them (86%) reported a positive impact of the training on their career. Only 21% had another training session on breaking bad news during their residency. At long-term analysis, fewer trainees considered the duration of the training to have been sufficient ($p = 0.044$).

Breaking-bad-news training has a positive long-term educational impact even several years later. Such a training program should be implemented into the [pediatric neurosurgery residency](#) ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Zanello M, Baugnon T, Roux A, Di Rocco F. A long-term evaluation of a training program on breaking bad news in pediatric neurosurgery: a pilot study. J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2020 Mar 13;1-9. doi: 10.3171/2019.12.PEDS19554. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 32168486.

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