



Images in Resuscitation: Utstein Abbey

Jerry Nolan^a, Jasmeet Soar^{b,*}

^a *Consultant in Anaesthesia & Intensive Care, Royal United Hospital, Bath BA1 3NG, UK*

^b *Consultant in Anaesthesia & Intensive Care, Southmead Hospital, Bristol BS10 5NB, UK*



Utstein is synonymous with reporting guidelines for resuscitation. The first Utstein conference was held at Utstein Abbey in 1990 and resulted in the publication of guidelines for uniform reporting of data from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. There have been subsequent “Utstein Style” guidelines for reporting paediatric ALS, CPR research, in hospital resuscitation, major trauma, and drowning. Further

guidelines will follow. This picture was taken in December 1999 during a meeting on simulation.

The abbey occupies a strategic position overlooking the entrance to the Norwegian fjords of Ryfylke and the passage southwards toward Stavanger. Initially the residence of King Harald Hårfagre (“Fairhair”) in 872, there has been an abbey on the site since 1264. The monks belonged to the Augus-

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: Jasmeet.Soar@nbt.nhs.uk (J. Soar).

tinian order and came from France, Britain, and Denmark. The monks were the only doctors in the middle ages providing both health and spiritual care. The sick were brought to the abbey and lodged in the hospice. Rivalries within the Church led to the Bishop of Stavanger's soldiers torching the abbey in 1515. After the Reformation in 1537 the abbey was sacked once again.

The current masonry construction was built around 1750. It has since been the home of kings and nobleman with stories of love, ghosts, and witches.

The Abbey has been extensively restored in the last 100 years. The association of Utstein with resuscitation continues the tradition of healthcare started by the founding monks 800 years ago.