

IMPACT OF CHANGING TRENDS IN TEACHING METHODOLOGIES IN OPHTHALMOLOGY FOR UG MEDICAL STUDENTS

Purpose:

Impact of changing trends in teaching methodologies in Ophthalmology for UG medical students.

Methods: The undergraduate medical curriculum in Ophthalmology is traditionally taught by didactic lectures. We introduced newer concepts of medical education technology and studied the impact that it had on 60 undergraduate students. Innovations included,

1. Vertical integration with a basic science department (Anatomy),
2. Problem based learning
3. E-Learning portal.

Fifty percent of the lectures incorporated the newly introduced concepts of teaching and the rest were done in the existing model. Students were asked to grade the effectiveness of integrated learning and usefulness of the e-learning on a five-point Likert scale

Results:

92% of students graded vertical integration with anatomy as excellent. 95% of them opined that they would like to have basic science integration for all the topics. Specific learning objectives were utilized by only 30% of students. Qualitative feedback revealed that the whole concept of studying with SLO was new and had not been reinforced in other subjects. The e-learning website was used by only 25% of students.

Conclusion:

Vertical integration with anatomy in teaching clinical Ophthalmology is greatly beneficial in enhancing understanding of the subject in pedagogy. Specific Learning Objectives should be part of all medical curriculum especially where there is inter-departmental integration to ensure clinical application, student performance and curriculum design. E learning will be a valuable tool when it conforms to the existing evaluation pattern of the university.