

Achieving Minimal Geriatric Competencies in Neurology: Using E-learning to Standardize Education

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Background

To ensure that graduating medical students are better prepared to care for elderly patients, the AAMC and the Hartford Foundation sponsored a consensus conference (2007) to develop "Minimum Geriatric Competencies for Medical Students" to provide a national standard for geriatric education.

AAMC/Hartford Geriatric Competencies

8 domains:

- Medical Management
- Cognitive Disorders
- Self-care Capacity
- Falls, Balance, Gait
- Healthcare Planning
- Atypical Presentation of Disease
- Palliative Care
- Hospital Care



Problem

How to integrate and standardize geriatrics content as it applies to a required M3 Neurology Clerkship encompassing over 200 students at various clinical sites.

Methods

Collaboration of an e-learning team:

- Geriatrician
- Neurologist
- Education Specialist

Creation of an on-line curriculum module addressing 50% of the geriatric competency domains using the *ANGEL* e-learning management system.



Incorporation of multiple formats/medias

- Video triggers
- Case studies
- Journal articles
- Informational websites

Module content includes:

- Home care
- Driving
- Community resources
- Advanced directives
- Quiz
- Course evaluation



ANGEL Module Neurology & Dementia: Psychosocial Aspects of Care



Students log in...start with course objectives and work their way through the module until they reach the final link, complete a quiz, and the course evaluation.



In this section, students watch short (< 3min.) video triggers on home safety and then answer questions.

A section on caregiver stress includes a recent journal article.

Video triggers are also used within the course quiz.

Student Comments

"The module covers a wide range of aging-related problems...you get a lot of information without having to spend a lot of extra time."

"Video clips are very helpful in terms of modeling the physician's response to difficult situations."

"I feel that it is much more time efficient to learn on-line. I learn and retain a lot more information from interacting and dealing with a patient's case, rather than having someone describe it to me in a lecture".

Results

Rate the module's overall effect on helping you apply psychosocial neurology content to geriatric dementia patient care.

Impact: OSCEs 2009

Students who completed the module not only displayed learning of the topics as assessed in the on-line quiz, but also showed a superior and sustained change in clinical behavior in their treatment /approach to a standardized patient compared to students who did not complete the module.

Conclusion

The AAMC/Hartford Minimum Geriatric Competencies for Medical Students can be achieved in a neurology clerkship using e-learning to provide a standard curriculum, strongly supported by students with demonstrated knowledge increases in geriatrics.