



A Web-side Teaching Clinic in Obstetrics & Gynaecology during COVID-19 Pandemic

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Context

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face clinical teaching was suspended
- As a result, innovative online clinical teaching platforms were needed to optimise the student's clinical exposure
- During this period, our Department adopted a Web-side Teaching Clinic (WTC) to allow students to clerk real patients online without being physically present in the clinic



Intervention

- MBBS V students (n=32) on their O&G attachment in Aug to Sep 2020 were scheduled for WTC during real-time clinic sessions
- Students were given opportunities to obtain history from patients in the presence of the doctor/teacher, and then participate in the counselling via the Zoom
- An evaluation form on the effectiveness of the WTC was completed by the students at the end of their clinical attachment. Answers were graded using the 5-point Likert scale



Observations - Students

After WTC

- 81% agreed or strongly agreed that they were more capable of taking good history and felt more comfortable asking patients about sensitive issues like menstrual, sexual or abortion history
- 66% and 81% found that WTC was effective or very effective in learning communication skills, and patient management respectively
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that the sessions allowed them to reflect on their own skills and improve

“Real patient encounters during WTC provided more realistic communication and genuine reaction from patients compared to encounters with surrogates”



Observations - Patients

- Majority of the patients found WTC acceptable and were willing to allow students to participate in the consultation



Observations - Teachers

- The teachers felt that this was a feasible option, and the teaching activities did not significantly interfere with the running of the clinic



Observations - General

- However, WTC was affected by the quality of internet connections



Conclusions

During the suspension of face-to-face teaching, WTC is an effective online learning innovation and provides a valuable opportunity for clinical teaching and interactions with real patients at times when clinical areas are not accessible to medical students

