Breathing New Life into an Old Curriculum: Ideas for Curriculum Improvement in the First Month of Clinical Training: What Does the Search Process Look Like?

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Background

After completing their intern year, all anesthesiology residents complete an intensive one month training program with the goal of ensuring our residents have the appropriate background knowledge and clinical skills to begin practicing anesthesia (with supervision).

Objectives

Our goal was to develop an innovative, engaging, one-month curriculum that could be implemented at a low cost using existing validated resources.

Methods

To gain a sense of the training implemented and utilized at other institutions, we conducted a three-tier literature search:

1. Google search using “CA1 lecture series”
2. PubMed search using “anesthesia resident AND curriculum”
3. MedEdPORTAL search for all anesthesia topics

All resources were analyzed, and a list of critical topics was compiled. Criteria for inclusion were programs that included a full CA1 lecture schedule and ideas within the literature of PubMed and MedEdPORTAL that corresponded to our goal of an innovative and engaging curriculum.

Results

Tier 1: Existing CA1 Lecture Series

25 Anesthesia Programs

8 Open access to lecture schedule

5 Year-long lecture series

1 Two-month lecture series

3 Airway workshops

1 Tour

0 High-fidelity simulations

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Tier 2: MedEdPORTAL anesthesia topics

80 Anesthesia lectures and simulations in MedEdPortal

59 Topics and Simulations Identified as Important for our Residents

Tier 3: PubMed “anesthesia resident AND curriculum”

5 Applicable PubMed Articles

Conclusions

By utilizing existing national resources, incorporating simulation, and providing a structured contest, we developed an updated intensive first month curriculum for our incoming residents. This process can be followed by other training programs who are interested in updating old curricula and implementing a more intensive “boot camp” type of program for their learners.

References