

Audiovisual podcasts as a learning resource for anaesthesia trainees

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Introduction

In these times of reduced working hours, increasing shiftwork and decreased time for face-to-face teaching for junior doctors, there is a move towards innovative web based ways of instruction such as Wikipedia, blogs and audiovisual podcasts^{1,2}. Podcasts are digital media files that can be watched on a computer or downloaded onto mobile electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets. These then have the advantage of being accessible to the user at their convenience. They are meant to be a supplement and not a complete replacement to direct teaching.

Objectives

Our objective was to create an electronic learning package comprising of a set of audiovisual podcasts on obstetric anaesthesia.

Methods

We identified topics in obstetric anaesthesia, which were of clinical relevance to trainee anaesthetists (ST3/4/5). Talks were prepared on these subjects by consultant and senior trainee anaesthetists. These were then recorded professionally and edited by Ospirals media, using Screenflow software.

Results

We have recorded a set of 10 podcasts, each lasting approximately 30 minutes and resembling lectures with PowerPoint presentations. These podcasts will be uploaded onto the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust computers and will be accessible 24/7 to anaesthesia trainees. Initial feedback about the ease of use and accessibility has been very positive.

Conclusions

The trainees of today are comfortable with using electronic media for learning such as the Internet, blogs and podcasts². Hence podcasts will be a familiar and acceptable way of learning for them. We envisage that with limited training times, these methods of instruction will become more popular.

Acknowledgement

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References

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2. Sandars J. Twelve tips for using podcasts in medical education. *Med Teach.* 2009 May;31(5):387-9. Doi: 10.1080/01421590802227958.