

Podcast Pearls: The Impact of A Brief Weekly 21st Century Educational Tool

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Needs and Objectives: New challenges to resident work hours have challenged old teaching paradigms, including Morning Report. We sought to capture and disseminate the essential teaching points from the our residency program's Morning Report with the "Podcast Pearl," an audio file consisting of teaching pearls. We aimed to assess the impact this weekly recording had on resident and faculty education, satisfaction, and connectedness to the residency program.

Setting and Participating: We began creating the "Podcast Pearl" audio file in July 2012 and have been distributing it weekly to 57 residents and 49 faculty members at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center since then.

Description: After each Morning Report, the Assistant Chief of Service helped the resident presenter identify the salient teaching points and recorded a brief 1-2 minute interview with the resident using a digital recording device. These recordings were edited using freely available software (iTunes, Wavosaur), converted into 6-8 minute MP3 recordings, and sent via secure intranet to residents and teaching faculty weekly. After 4 months of use, the residents and teaching faculty were surveyed to examine utilization patterns, educational impact and faculty connectedness to the residency program.

Evaluation: 30 out of 57 residents (53%) and 18 out of 49 (37%) of teaching faculty responded to the survey. 70% of residents reported using the Podcast Pearl, with 23% using at least half of the recordings. 100% of residents who used 1 or more Podcast Pearls and who were not able to attend morning report (due to ICU rotations, vacation, etc.) reported that they learned something new. 100% of teaching faculty who responded to the survey reported using 1 or more of the Podcast Pearls, with 56% reporting using at least half of the recordings, and 17% reporting using all available recordings. 56% of faculty reported that the Podcast Pearl improved their learning. 94% of faculty reported that listening to the Podcast Pearl made them feel more connected to housestaff.

Lessons Learned: A brief, weekly recording of teaching pearls from daily morning reports within an internal medicine residency program was a popular and effective educational tool among both residents and teaching faculty.