

P137

P137 -Organisation of a Mock OSCE in a renal dialysis unit to give final year students experience of examining patients with signs in a structured environment.

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Introduction

Medical students are prepared throughout medical school to examine patients and recognise clinical signs to formulate differential diagnoses. They, generally, do not receive formal assessment of examination skills on real patients apart from during end of year assessments. Therefore, we organised a mock OSCE where final year medical students could examine patients with signs and receive timely and appropriate feedback. The session was hosted at a Renal Dialysis Unit as it provided a predictable number of patients, who were present for a significant length of time and had appropriate clinical signs.

Methods

A pilot session was hosted for final year medical students on placement at Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust. They were divided into 3 groups and rotated around a mock OSCE in the renal unit examining renal dialysis patients. Examinations included cardiovascular, respiratory, rheumatology, vascular and endocrine. There were 4 OSCE style stations for each student. Each mock OSCE session was concluded with feedback and debriefing session.

Results

The overall feedback from the sessions was positive. Students were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 how strongly they agreed with the following statements, with 5 being strongly agree. The scores below are mean averages:

'I feel that having a mock OSCE in the renal unit was a valuable experience'- 5.0

'I feel that having a mock OSCE in the renal unit was relevant to my curriculum'- 5.0

'I feel that all students should have the opportunity to participate in such an OSCE'- 4.9

100% of the students said they would recommend this type of OSCE session to their colleagues.

Discussion and Conclusion

An opportunity to examine patients with signs is a valuable learning experience for final year medical students which boosts their confidence in examining patients and recognising signs. Hosting this session in a clinical area which has a fixed, predictable number of patients with significant clinical signs was highly advantageous, both for the organisers and to the students themselves.