

DESIGNING AND ORGANISING A VIRTUAL REGIONAL HAEMATOLOGY REGISTRAR TEACHING PROGRAMME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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BACKGROUND

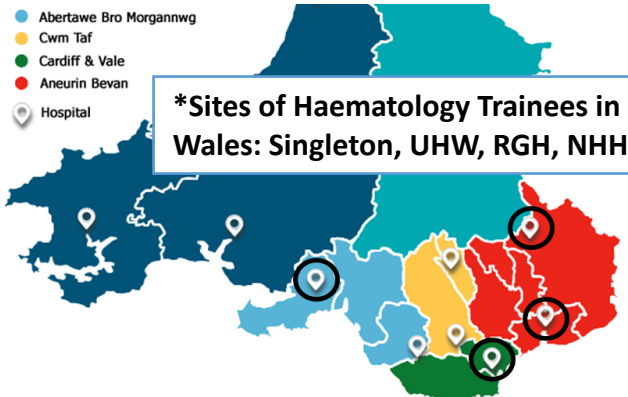
COVID-19 has impacted speciality training across the world. In our case, the restrictions on face-to-face meetings and additional pressures on working patterns with a change in rota led to a loss of teaching and training opportunities for the haematology registrars across Wales.

Following discussion with the Wales haematology training programme director we coordinated with the haematology consultant body designing a 3 – 4 times weekly teaching program delivered via Zoom, ensuring that haematology teaching was minimally impacted in Wales from June to Aug 2020

AIM

To deliver a sustainable replacement virtual teaching programme during the COVID-19 pandemic targeting the haematology curriculum*

*Topics included exam preparation, lymphoma journal club, bone marrow transplant, coagulation and morphology



RESULTS

- 67% of registrars reported being able to attend more teaching sessions virtually
- 83% of registrars felt their concentration was improved or unaffected with virtual teaching
- 83% of registrars wanted ongoing virtual sessions
- Attendees felt access across multiple sites was extremely important.
- Speakers were less likely to cancel when sessions were held virtually

CONCLUSION

Our program ensured haematology registrars were able to access vital teaching across Wales during these unprecedented and disruptive times. The program is continuing into the new academic year thus demonstrating the sustainability of what we achieved.

Strengths:

- More people able to attend the teaching (including haematology SHOs other team members including CNS's & those registrars on maternity leave)
- **Cross-site learning community** (geographically disparate locations*)
- Speakers less likely to cancel

Weaknesses:

- Loss of networking opportunities (with new ST3s in August 2020)
- Loss of brainstorming/interactivity
- Connection issues - intermittent WIFI (cancelled session due to WIFI)

FUTURE GOALS

- Deliver a larger range of teaching including haemoglobinopathies and immunophenotyping (case based sessions)
- Ways to make the teaching sessions more interactive? Use of different platforms; quizzes/polls
- Virtual training days – one has gone successfully so far

METHOD

The Zoom virtual platform was used allowing attendance across multiple sites* and at home across Wales with a project team member moderating sessions to ensure smooth running.

Feedback was obtained using an online survey to ensure key curriculum topics were covered and in order to better understand the future role of virtual platforms in the speciality



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