

Obstetric anaesthesia e-Learning programme.

An innovative educational resource for challenging times.

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Background and summary of work

The challenging times in which we find ourselves have required us to think innovatively about how to deliver Obstetric Anaesthesia teaching to junior anaesthetists both locally and nationally across Wales. Clinical face-to-face teaching cannot currently be utilised in the traditional way to disseminate the core curriculum because of the required social distancing.

We utilised Panopto video recording software to produce a novel educational resource to facilitate socially distanced obstetric anaesthesia teaching to anaesthetic trainees across Wales. The series of recorded lectures are easily accessible online¹, which provides a standardised educational resource with flexibility for learning at individual pace.

The programme was mapped to the Royal College of Anaesthetists' Learning Outcomes for the Initial Assessment of Competence for Obstetric Anaesthesia. Narrated lectures on specified topics were developed by anaesthetic trainees and reviewed by senior anaesthetists to ensure accuracy and consistency. The programme was advertised to all junior anaesthetic trainees and college tutors on completion.

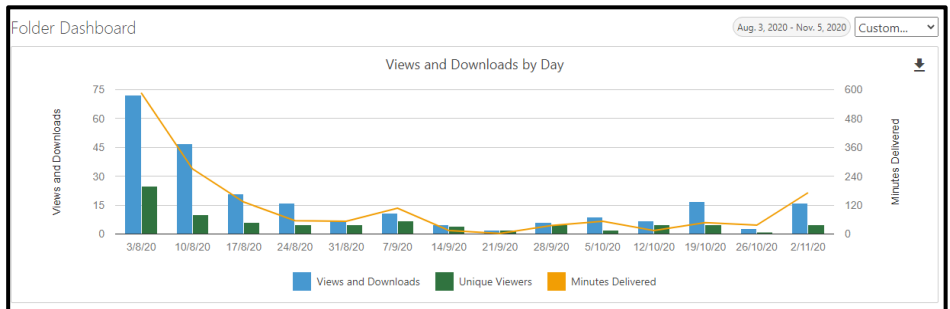
Results

All 16 lectures (Table 1) were available from 3rd August 2020 and have been viewed a total of 388 times to date. Views peaked between 5th-12th August (Graph 1), in-line with the induction of new anaesthetic trainees. They were rising again at the time of poster production, inline with the next intake. On average each lecture has been viewed 24 times.

Table 1: Lecture Titles

Graph 1: Views and Downloads

An introduction to working on labour ward
Anatomical changes in pregnancy
Physiological changes in pregnancy
Pharmacological changes in pregnancy
An introduction to labour analgesia
Epidural for labour analgesia
Remifentanyl PCA for labour
De novo regional anaesthesia for caesarean section
General anaesthesia for caesarean section
Epidural top up for caesarean section
Pregnancy associated hypertension
Obstetric Haemorrhage
Dural puncture
Total spinal
The postpartum anaesthetic review
Anaesthesia for obstetric procedures other than caesarean section



Discussion and conclusion

Trainees can participate in learning at a convenient time due to online accessibility. Whilst compliance and engagement cannot be ensured to the same extent as face-to-face teaching, completion is recorded using Panopto statistics. Furthermore, self-assessment questions enable participants to monitor their own progress; an important part of adult learning². Finally, the production of lecture content provided valuable teaching opportunities for anaesthetic trainees as well as becoming more familiar with the use of online audio-visual recording software.

Take home messages

This programme is an invaluable resource in times where face-to-face teaching is not possible. Although COVID-19 poses many challenges clinically, it has given us the much needed opportunity to advance teaching resources for trainees during these uncertain times. We also believe this modality of teaching will be useful for future provision of teaching which is now permanently available to be used at the learners convenience.

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