The Impact of Using a Health Systems Sciences (HSS) Signposting on Student Health Systems Sciences Knowledge During the OB-Gyn Clerkship

Ashish Khanchandani, MS, Jenna Garris, MA, Jill Sutton, MD

BACKGROUND

HSS is steadily becoming integrated into medical school curricula across the nation. BSOM has a longitudinal curriculum on HSS, and each curriculum component incorporates different domains of HSS. Specifically in the OB-Gyn clerkship, there are two curricular components where HSS concepts are taught. These components are denoted using an icon or “signposting”. The impetus behind this study is to ascertain whether the use of the signposting improved student recognition of HSS curricular integration in the clerkship.

METHODS

❖ Subjects who participated in this observational study were third year BSOM medical students who had recently completed the OB-Gyn clerkship.
❖ Students completed a survey where they were presented an image of the signposting and were queried upon their memory of signposting use.
❖ The students answered background questions involving their experience with HSS.
❖ Students were sent this survey by the clerkship coordinator to eliminate any conflicts of interest and their responses were deidentified using Qualtrics.

RESULTS

❖ 24 students completed the survey.
❖ Of these students 58.3% (n=14) remember seeing the signposting in the clerkship. Of this group, 26.6% (n=4) remember seeing the signposting during clerkship orientation, 35.7% (n=5) during discussions related to specific clerkship components (Fishbone project, Simulation lab, and Clinic days), and 7.1% (n=1) in the clerkship documentation (Redbook).
❖ 45.8% (n=11) understood that the signposting stood for HSS components.
❖ 62.5% (n=15) remember seeing the signposting prior to the beginning of the clerkship.
❖ 41.7% (n=10) had received HSS education prior to the clerkship.
❖ Most respondents (95.8%, n=23) had not contributed to HSS curricular planning.

CONCLUSIONS

❖ Most respondents recall the signposting
❖ Of those who understood that the signposting stood for HSS components, most remembered specific curricular components where the signposting was used.
❖ Most students had remembered the use of the signposting in prior educational experiences implying that signposting does trigger a memory response. More research is needed with a larger population to ascertain whether students understood what HSS means and which HSS domains their learning is categorized within.

REFERENCES