1st Week on the Wards: The role an introductory OB/GYN podcast can play on student success in the clinical space

Lavelle, VM, Sutton, J

RATIONALITY/NEED & METHODS

RATIONALITY/NEED: The purpose of this study was to assess how an innovative and accessible podcast series can be used during the first week of the OB/GYN clerkship to increase student knowledge and confidence in the clinical space. Specific clinical topics in obstetrics and gynecology are not thoroughly covered during the didactic years of medical school, leaving medical students unprepared for the clinical space. 1st Week on the Wards: OB/GYN is a 7-episode podcast series that provides, in approximately ten minutes segments, a crash course on the basics of obstetrics. (Figure 1) Topics covered include Prenatal Care, HTN in Pregnancy, Gestational Diabetes, Preterm Labor/PPROM/PROM, L&D Triage, Labor and Delivery, and Postpartum Hemorrhage. The podcast is available on a variety of listening platforms including Spotify.

METHODS: Pre- and Post- surveys were administered via Google Forms and involved 3rd year medical students ranking their comfort using the Likert Scale (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree). (Figure 2)

RESULTS

Six students starting their obstetrics and gynecology clerkship listened to the podcast during their first week. At baseline, students on average reported that they did not feel well prepared for the OB/GYN clerkship, did not fully understand the process of labor and delivery, did not know the most important aspects of prenatal care, and did not feel confident in creating differential diagnoses. This was evidenced by an average score of “disagree” on the pre-survey. After listening to the podcast, students “agreed” or “strongly agreed” to feeling confident in the same domains, a statistically significant increase (p< 0.001). (Figure 3) Students also reported increased understanding of “day-to-day” concepts and felt the podcast decreased the “learning curve”. (Figure 4)

“I would like to thank the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at East Carolina University as well as the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship for supporting me in this work. A special thanks to Dr. Jill Sutton for her guidance!”

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Veronica Lavelle
Department of OB/GYN
East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina 27858
lavelle.vm@students.ecu.edu

Figure 1. Podcast graphic

Figure 2. Method of studying podcast efficacy

Figure 3. Average of student responses on pre- and post- surveys

Figure 4. Student Feedback

"Great Podcast! I think the strength of this lies in its explanation of many of the day-to-day things that usually fly over my head. Having all of this in one resource that I can listen to study in ~2 hours really helps cut the learning curb. Now I understand ‘Beta incomplete’, Map checks’, labor prevention, etc. Now I can learn MORE than the basics during my rotation."