INTRODUCTION

• The balance of resident education and the demands of surgical training is an area of constant discussion since the mid 1980s with the initiation of the 80-hour work week.

• Often touted as a means to reduce medical errors and increase opportunities for self-directed learning, the work hour restrictions have yet to prove a measurable benefit in either area.

• Work hour restrictions, among other changes in resident education over the years, have had important implications, as the goals during residency are to obtain and master a large amount of information in an efficient and timely manner.

• The methods of learning to date have been via hands-on training, in house didactic sessions, grand rounds, attending rounds and independent self study.

• We sought to assess whether surgical residents utilizing tablet computers would increase residents’ tendency to read otolaryngologic literature.

METHODS

• Prospective, IRB approved study.

• As part of a departmental education project, iPad tablet computers were distributed to all residents in July 2011. A survey was distributed before and at two time points after distribution. Questions were asked regarding overall reading habits, barriers to reading, location of reading and media format utilized.

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RESULTS

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METHODS

• Prospective, IRB approved study.

• As part of a departmental education project, iPad tablet computers were distributed to all residents in July 2011. A printed 2-page survey (Figure 1) was distributed before and at two time points, each separated by 5 months, after iPads were dispersed.

• Endpoints included assessing:
  • Overall reading habits
  • Barriers to reading
  • Location of reading taking place
  • Media format utilized
  • Otolaryngology training examination (OTE) scores

• Paired t-test and chi-squared analysis were performed

Figure 1: Sample of reading survey utilized.

Figure 2: Average time of reading performed per day

Figure 3: Percentage of reading performed on a given medium

Figure 4: Percentage of reading performed in a given location

Figure 5: Percentage of residents experiencing a problem in completing the amount of reading

Figure 6: Percentage of residents experiencing problems in completing reading due to insufficient time

Figure 7: Percentage of residents experiencing problems in completing reading due to inaccessibility of sources

Figure 8: Comparison of OTE group stanine scores

CONCLUSIONS

• Based on the study, there is preliminary data to support a change in resident reading habits with the distribution of tablet computers.

• There was no change in the achievement of reading goals despite improved “accessibility” and “on demand” properties of tablet computers.

• A trend towards improvement in resident OTE scores was noted.

REFERENCES


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