

Perception of an Intern on Paediatric Training Methods

Umaserma Bharathi

Senior Resident, Department of Paediatrics, SRIHER, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Background- Interns train under the department of general paediatrics for a period of two weeks. They are expected to get trained in managing common OPD cases, identification and management of a sick child, develop skills to secure IV access, and also develop their clinical knowledge during this period. The paediatric internship programme focuses in training the interns to be capable of managing common paediatric illnesses independently. Here, we have studied the strengths and lacunas in the current training methods as perceived by the intern.

Aim and Methods- To identify the strengths and weakness of the current training methods as perceived by the intern.

Objective- To assess the confidence of intern in patient care, procedure skills and clinical knowledge at the end of 2-week residency. To assess the effectiveness of rounds notebook and evening reporting as a learning tool to address the shortcomings in the existing training methods.

Methodology- The interns were posted in the paediatric department for a period of three weeks, of which, two weeks were in general paediatrics and one week in PICU. Only the interns assigned to our (unit 3) unit participated in this study. A questionnaire was made based on the unit specific protocols. The study was conducted during the period of June 2023 to May 2024. A total of 50 interns participated in the study. A semi structured validated questionnaire was filled by the interns thorough google form at the end of their unit postings. After the data were evaluated, conclusions were drawn.

Results- Out of 50 interns, 46 (92%) felt that the rounds notebook helped in enhancing their clinical knowledge and patient care and 48 (96%) felt that they were involved in the management of the patient. Among the 50 interns, 46 (92%) felt that the posting helped in improving their communication skills with the patient, nursing staff and faculty and 48 (96%) were comfortable in approaching the seniors in case of difficulties. When it came to reaching their goal of receiving paediatric training, 46 (92%) of the interns thought that the unit-specific objectives at the start of each posting and the personalised feedback at the end of each posting were helpful and 39 (78%) interns felt that they were given opportunity to present in public forums and publications. Only 17 (34%) interns were confident in securing an IV access. We observed that most interns were confident in managing common paediatric OPD problems, prescribing drugs and identification of a sick child; however, most of them were not confident with securing IV access. Their open comment in feedback form suggested that they felt as a part of the treating team and attributed it to the round's notebook and evening reporting.

Conclusion- While most interns identified bedside teaching, rounds notebook, compulsory presentation, mentorship with the faculty as strengths of the programme, they identified less opportunities in securing IV access and observing procedures as a weakness in their training. We must create a more efficient approach to teach the fundamental paediatric procedures and build the confidence of our future doctors in performing those skills.

Keywords- Intern, Paediatrics, Procedures

References

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