

Virtual Ophthalmology lecture series for medical school undergraduates during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a unique challenge in the way medical education is delivered.[1]. Nevertheless, the situation enabled us to innovate and adapt to a new form of learning. This new reality led to producing a series of two virtual lectures aimed at medical school finalists and delivered by Ophthalmology trainees. Given the success of this project, our hope is that virtual education augments the traditional-based format in the post-COVID 19 era.

Objectives

- To design and implement a series of two virtual lectures aimed at medical school finalists.
- To embed knowledge about common ophthalmological conditions according to the Eyes and Vision curriculum.[2]
- To evaluate the usefulness of virtual lectures for future educational purposes.

Methods

- Liaised with two Ophthalmology trainees about provisional plan and finalised topics.
- Collaborated with Ophthalmology Society President to design (see figure 3 &4) and implement two virtual lecture presentations.
- Invites to the event disseminated via social network platform.

Methods cont

- Feedback forms were provided to participants via email following each event.
- Certificates of attendance were issued upon completion of feedback forms.

Results

In talk 1, titled "Ophthalmology for finals: The Red eye", there were 23 attendees. Feedback was sought following both talks, which aimed to evaluate the quality and usefulness of the programme. As much as 74% strongly agreed (score of 5) the talk was interesting (see figure 1). In talk 2, titled "Common causes of sight loss", there were 6 attendees. All 6 participants strongly agreed that the presentation was clearly understandable. With regards to improvement for subsequent talks, a considerable number of respondents felt more MCQs could have been utilised (see figure 2).

Figure 1: Was the content interesting in talk 1?

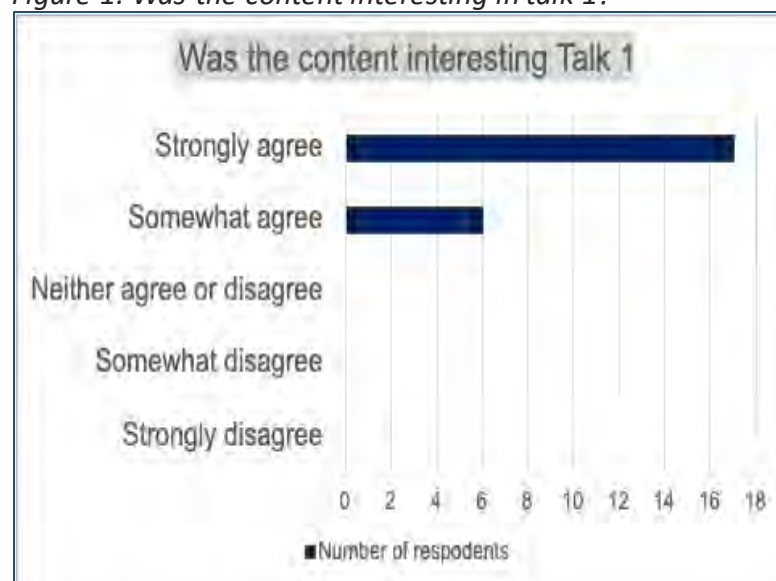


Figure 2: Suggestions for improvement from feedback

What would you suggest to improve the session?
perhaps include some mcq's to help consolidate the knowledge
Case examples
More MCQs
I love it ...it's interactive!
More MCQs
More SBAs and imaging

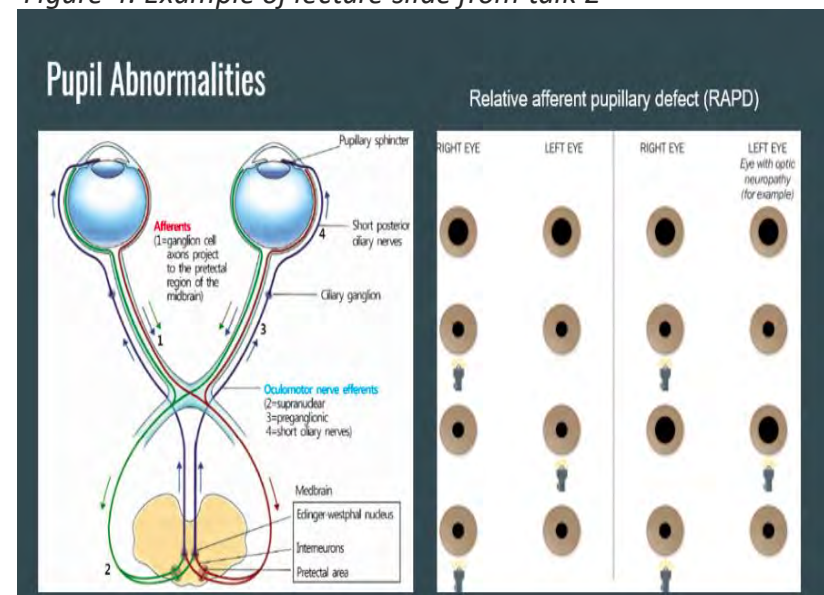
Conclusion

The unprecedented nature of the pandemic has perhaps revealed the over reliance of face-to-face teaching methods. Given the overwhelmingly positive response, the utility of virtual learning for undergraduate medicine is profound and can coincide with traditional forms beyond the pandemic itself.

Figure 3: Opening slide in talk 1



Figure 4: Example of lecture slide from talk 2



References:

- Papapanou M, Routsis E, Tsamakias K, et al Medical education challenges and innovations during COVID-19 pandemic *Postgraduate Medical Journal* Published Online First: 29 March 2021. doi: 10.1136/postgradmedj-2021-140032
- "Eyes and Vision curriculum".RCOphth. Available from: Undergraduate-and-Foundation-doctors-curriculum.pdf (rcophth.ac.uk)