

Making Clinical Teaching Visible – a time and motion study of hospital rounds in postgraduate medical teaching

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Background: Teaching in the clinical setting is frequently perceived as a demanding commitment by physicians. There is a paucity of data measuring the duration and efficacy of teaching during clinical rounds.

Aim: to assess both the quantity and quality of clinical teaching time dedicated to medical students and trainees on hospital ward rounds.

Methods: A cross-sectional direct structured observational study was conducted during the morning rounds of attending physicians involved in teaching at three different Dubai Health hospitals in four different specialties. A validated observational tool was used by observers to record teaching time and quality indicators.

Results: In terms of teaching duration, it was observed that 13% of the total morning round time was allocated to teaching, but this measure varied between different specialties. As for teaching quality, actions categorized as active teaching by the teachers were observed in 32% of the interactions per round, while active learning by the students was observed in 21% of the interactions per round. Teacher high-cognition actions were similarly observed in 22% of the interactions per round, while student high-cognition actions were observed in 62.5% of the interactions per round. Pediatrics tended to score higher than other specialties in terms of percentage teaching time as well as percentage of active teaching observed per round.

Conclusion: Percentage of teaching time during ward rounds remains highly variable across specialties and round teaching generally consists of passive and low-cognition interactions. Further training of clinical faculty is needed to achieve the desired teaching quality.

Biography

Nagam Alshehabi has completed her MBBS in 2023 from Mohammed Bin Rashid University, Dubai, UAE. She is currently a second-year pediatrics resident at AlJalila Children's Hospital Dubai, the only tertiary care children's hospital in the UAE and is undergoing her post-graduate certificate in medical education at Anglia Ruskin University.

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