



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

DIGITAL PBL - ENHANCING GLOBAL DERMATOLOGY TEACHING

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Introduction: Dermatology undergraduate training should be effective and efficient. Dermatologists' time is a valuable resource in all countries, which should be used to maximum effect. Evidence is driving undergraduate teaching to evolve from lectures and small group seminars to interactive clinically centred problem-based learning (PBL). Digital PBL is an innovative teaching method incorporating dermatology images into clinical scenarios to create intense, efficient teaching sessions.

Objectives: To determine the efficacy of digital PBL sessions in teaching UK medical students during their dermatology module.

Materials and Methods: 59 students in groups of ten, each completed two 2.5hour digital PBL sessions. One session focused on lesions, the other on inflammatory dermatoses. Per session students completed 60 cases. Each case was discussed in small groups, images were described and a diagnosis was agreed. Students then presented the case to the rest of the group and supervising clinician who provided feedback. Students filled in a feedback questionnaire at the end of each session.

Results: 117 sets of feedback (99%) were received. 60% of students reported learning a greater amount in a short time. 64% found digital PBL more useful than real patient clinics. Students were more confident and motivated following the sessions. Although some found concentrating intensely for 2.5hours challenging, training students to maintain concentration for prolonged periods is an essential skill in all countries.

Conclusions: Digital PBL was an effective, popular and efficient teaching method with one dermatologist to ten students. Exposure to 120 cases, within a short time period, through digital PBL, maximises training in simple and complex problems which can be tailored to meet local and regional dermatology health needs. Digital PBL can also support postgraduate medical and nurse training. This analysis supports introduction of digital PBL to support and complement face to face dermatology clinical training.

