Introducing integrated Case-based Learning and evaluating student's learning performance in Clinical Nutrition training

Abstract

Objectives: Clinical nutrition training is an essential course that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills in the clinical context. The goal of clinical training is to prepare graduates to be competent in their future practice. Case-based learning is an active learning discussion based on an original case from the clinical setting. Vertically integrated teaching is the process of merging multidisciplinary subjects to provide relevance for the learner. This paper described the introduction of the integrated case-based learning (ICBL) method and evaluated its impact on the quality of the nutrition care process the students provided. **Methods:** This action research project targeted the method of teaching during clinical training of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics (CN&D) senior students at the University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Ten integrated case-based learning sessions were handled for 29 trainees. The nutrition care process record was used to evaluate the learners' performance through a pretest-posttest. Furthermore, a focus group interview was held to represent the ICBL method's impact on students' learning experience. **Results:** All (100%) of the students experienced an improvement in their learning process. The students accomplished an improvement by 55% in their grades. They declared that they developed long-life learning skills after the session. **Conclusion:** Introducing integrated case-based learning discussions showed a positive influence on CN&D students. Consequently, they were able to describe appropriate and individualized nutritional care plans. Trainees were satisfied and recommended this method to be trustworthy for the clinical training.

Publication: Abu Farha, R. J., Zein, M. H. and Al Kawas, S. (2021) 'Introducing integrated case-based learning to clinical nutrition training and evaluating students' learning performance', *Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences*. Elsevier Ltd, 16(4), pp. 558–564. doi: 10.1016/j.jtumed.2021.03.005.

E-poster rewarded from Dubai International Nutrition Congress: The Effectiveness of Introducing Integrated Case-based Learning in Clinical Nutrition Practice. November 2021.

Biography: Rand Abu Farha is a PhD researcher at University of United Arab Emirates, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Nutrition and Health. She is a licensed Clinical Dietitian from Dubai Health Authority. Gained her Bachelor from University of Sharjah in Clinical Nutrition. Worked there as research assistant and Clinical Tutor. She gained her MSc from College of Medicine in Medical Education.