ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE COURSE ON OTOLARYNGOLOGY TO BRIDGE THE KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN THE CURRICULUMS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS AND JUNIOR DOCTORS

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Aims:

The initiative aims to address the existence gap in ENT knowledge in medical education and the amplified challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating a virtual ENT taster course that not only aims to bridge local disparities but also forges international connections, enriching ENT knowledge.

Methods:

The study involved a survey in the ENT department to identify knowledge gaps. A multidisciplinary team created a virtual ENT taster course to improve knowledge and explore specialties. The course covered a variety of topics, including ENT as a future career and was mainly focused on remedying knowledge gaps within ENT domains. Pre-course and post-course questionnaires were used to compare participants' initial knowledge and confidence levels with their subsequent understanding and assurance post-course, evaluating the course's impact on attendees.

Result:

The majority of attendees reported inadequate familiarity with ENT practice (40% to 50%). However, after an online course, their knowledge improved by 30%-40%. Only a few had minimal prior exposure but found the course beneficial. Feedback analysis showed a significant improvement in confidence and knowledge of ENT practices, with eagerness for more sessions. Statistical analysis indicated that there was no significant difference between local and international attendees for ENT knowledge($P<0.05$)

Conclusion:

In conclusion, our study focuses on Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) specialties, shedding light on the pivotal role played by junior doctors. It also reveals the transformative impact of this innovative initiative, illustrating the profound influence of online learning on reshaping perceptions of medical specialties, international medical graduates, and fostering a globally connected community of medical professionals.