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Role of 'Case Based Learning' in developing critical thinking skills among the first year Indian medical undergraduates

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Keywords

Abstract

Context: Physiology is taught mostly in lecturers and practical. Lecture covers huge syllabus in less time and is an effective method of teaching large number of students. However, if not well designed, lectures provide passive learning, with little or no scope for critical thinking skills. Aims: The present study was aimed to highlight the development in critical thinking skills using case based discusssions physiology, in first year medical undergraduates. Settings and Design: The study was conducted in first year medical undergraduates in the medical college in the department of Physiology. Methods and Material: In first year medical undergraduate students, CBL (case based learning) was followed after lectures. A control group was made where tutorials were paired with lectures. Evaluation of improvement in critical thinking skills was done by a pre and post-test with higher order and extended multiple type of questions (EMQs). Scores were compared before and after the intervention and with the control group. Results:- Post assessment scores for CBL were statistically significant compared to tutorial group. Conclusions: CBL was found to be an effective supplement for the lectures in developing critical thinking skills .It promotes deep learning leads to better application of knowledge, improved reasoning skills and enhanced clinical correlation