



MEDICAL EDUCATION
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Medical students' oral case presentation skills: A survey of medical students, residents, and attending physicians

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Purpose: Oral case presentations are a key way that medical students communicate with more senior colleagues about patient care. The development of mastery of this skill is not well understood. The present study examined medical students' experience learning oral case presentations at our institution. **Methods:** We surveyed fourth-year medical students, pediatric residents, and pediatricians at our institution about case presentations. The surveys consisted mostly of Likert-scale questions. Differences between the groups' responses were assessed using Chi-squared tests followed by the Marascuilo procedure. **Results:** Response rates were 67%, 57% and 50% for medical students, residents, and staff physicians, respectively. Medical students rated "observing a more senior colleague" and "informal clerkship teaching sessions" as the most useful learning methods. Medical students were significantly more likely to rate themselves as very or extremely competent with case presentations compared to both residents ($p < 0.05$) and staff physicians ($p < 0.05$). Eighty-three per cent (83%) of medical students felt they were very/extremely competent. In contrast, only 38% of residents and 26% of staff physicians felt the students were very/extremely competent. Students reported receiving feedback on case presentations significantly less frequently than staff physicians reported giving feedback ($p < 0.05$). The surveys also examined the concept of relevance. Sixty-two per cent (62%) of residents and 48% of staff physicians felt that medical students present too much information in a case presentation. Sixty-eight per cent (68%) of students had been told to limit the information they presented. **Conclusions:** Graduating medical students' confidence may exceed their competence as it relates to oral case presentations. There was a significant discrepancy between the frequency of feedback reported by medical students and staff physicians.