

[P01.017] Using Outcome Measures To Assess Resident Education in Neuropsychiatry

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OBJECTIVE: To assess learning during a Neuropsychiatry rotation using test scores obtained before and after the rotation. **BACKGROUND:** The ACGME Neurology RRC has recently instituted a 1-month required rotation in psychiatry for neurology residents. UCSF residents are supervised in a newly designed, multi-disciplinary rotation to fulfill this requirement. The experience includes formal didactic sessions on topics in psychiatry relevant to neurology as well as exposure to psychiatry in outpatient, inpatient, and emergency department settings, in addition to behavioral neurology outpatient and research practices. **DESIGN/METHODS:** Rotation participants are asked to complete a 67-item multiple choice test on the first day of their rotation and again at the conclusion of their 4 week experience. The questions resemble behavioral neurology and psychiatry questions from the ABPN certification examination, ranging from basic science to clinical scenarios. Residents are informed that test scores will not be considered in their performance evaluation. Test questions are not specifically highlighted during didactic sessions nor clinical exposure to faculty members. **RESULTS:** Of the 9 residents participating in the rotation during the 2006-07 academic year, the mean pre-test score was 36.9 (+/-6.0), and the mean post-test score was 47.4 (+/-7.8), demonstrating a significant improvement ($p=0.004$). Comparing the four UCSF PGY-2 residents completing the rotation prior to their 2007 Resident Inservice Training Examination (RITE) with four randomly selected UCSF PGY-2 residents taking the 2006 RITE prior to the availability of the rotation revealed no significant difference in overall test scores ($p=0.3$); however, a strong trend toward a significant difference in scores on the Behavioral Neurology/Psychiatry subsection ($p=0.058$) of the examination was evident. **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** Offering structured graduate medical education in psychiatry to neurology residents, including integrated didactic sessions with before- and after-experience-tests, results in objective improvement in fund of knowledge as measured by local and global outcome measures.