

## **PBL as a Cornerstone in Anesthesiology Didactics**

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**Learner audience:** New CA-1 Residents Orienting to the Operating Rooms

**Needs Assessment:** A solely lecture-based curriculum may be inadequate for teaching certain concepts to Anesthesiology residents. This can be improved by incorporating learner-centered teaching tools like PBL case discussions.

**Curriculum:** While a lecture-based curriculum is useful for presenting many topics in the field of anesthesiology, it may be suboptimal for discussing certain aspects of anesthetic practice. However, these subjects can be taught more effectively using learner-centered teaching techniques, such as PBL. The didactic program at the Cleveland Clinic added PBL sessions for the senior residents as a pilot project. After evaluating the new program's success, the PBL series was expanded for the seniors. More recently the PBL sessions have been added to the orientation program for the CA-1 residents. CA-1 PBL cases focus on pre-operative evaluation, the anesthesia machine, patient monitoring, airway management, induction, maintenance, and emergence of anesthesia, and issues in the PACU.

This technique offers many advantages for resident learning fundamental concepts. It allows residents to take responsibility for preparing material prior to the PBL sessions. It also provides opportunities for group discussion, enforces the concepts and the implications of each of the point discussed, stimulates critical thinking and simulates the operating room environment.

**Impact:** The PBL curriculum received unanimous favorable reviews from CA-1 participants. Furthermore, all residents requested more PBL sessions to be incorporated into their didactic program, and they rated PBL sessions as one of the major strengths of our program in different surveys. During exit interviews, the graduating residents consistently mentioned that PBL sessions were helpful and suggested that the program be expanded further. Some residents have found that during their oral practice examinations, the PBL scenarios helped them recall and articulate answers.