

Teaching OB Anesthesiology Online

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Learner audience: This course is intended for anesthesiology residents and staff.

Needs Assessment: Arranging time for didactics during our OB Anesthesia rotation has always been difficult, as resident hours and staff schedules compete for hours in the day. Finding time to convene for morbidity and mortality was nearly impossible, especially at our outlying hospitals where staff are “on site” only once or twice per month. We felt we needed a supplemental learning program that would:

1. Be flexible, allowing access from both home and hospital, day and night.
2. Be consistent, with each resident facing the same testing and cases each month – current bedside teaching was haphazard in topic coverage.
3. Allow for pre- and post-testing to assess resident progress.
4. Provide a platform for archives of written material and power point lectures.
5. Provide a forum for case discussion, akin to an OB Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.
6. Prompt residents to consider issues involving communication and professionalism.

Curriculum: We accomplished these goals through online learning, using course preparation software called ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning). Residents accessed the material through any computer, both in the hospital and from home. In addition to archives of lectures and a detailed testing format, ANGEL contains a chat room format where each resident responded to the Grand Rounds puzzler each month. This provided consistency, case analysis, and, with selected prompts, allowed for discussion of communication and professionalism issues.

Impact: OB Online has provided easily accessible, supplemental learning opportunities. It has reduced paperwork and provided evaluation tools through both traditional testing and the Grand Rounds puzzler, where the respondent can see both our “answer” and the responses of fellow residents. In the future, we hope to improve the chat room by allowing more participant interaction. We are building an archive of “Grand Rounds” cases and hope to add voice to slide shows. Although this curriculum is for OB Anesthesia, other courses could easily fit their own subject matter into a similar system.