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Physical distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic altered traditional radiology education

Creative use of videoconferencing creates educational opportunities and fosters social inclusiveness and well-being

Virtual Radiology Education During the COVID-19 World Pandemic
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BACKGROUND
Physical distancing requirements necessitated a paradigm shift in traditional radiology education
Conventional teaching and imaging review at the Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) workstation and didactic group lectures/case conferences are no longer feasible

PURPOSE
Explore educational difficulties during the pandemic
Describe the use of interactive videoconferencing and web cameras to foster a sense of social inclusiveness

PROBLEM
Faculty and learners not in the same physical space for in person image review
• Faculty reviewed imaging reports created by learners remotely
Reduced conference room capacity prevented in person teaching conferences
• Conferences cancelled or postponed
Faculty and learners reported feeling isolated

SOLUTION
Implementation of videoconferencing
• Two faculty members became proficient in use of ZOOM videoconferencing and provided instruction
Creation of a virtual PACS learning experience
• Encouraged “virtual readouts” with screen sharing, annotations, and remote control for interactive review of imaging studies
Promotion of virtual teaching conferences
• Encouraged learner engagement by incorporating interactive features and breakout rooms to facilitate small group learning
Utilization of web cameras to increase social interaction and engagement

VIRTUAL IMAGE REVIEW
Many faculty and learners reported virtual PACS learning is nearly identical to in person learning
Example of interactive feature: whiteboard
• Creating of notes and drawings to enhance learning

RESULTS
Faculty and learner satisfaction increased
Learners and faculty reported feeling less isolated when they could communicate verbally and visually through videoconferencing
Use of web cameras important
• Visual interaction increased feelings of social inclusiveness and well-being
• Visual cues help gauge learner engagement and understanding

CONCLUSIONS
Physical distancing requirements of the COVID-19 world pandemic have dramatically altered radiology education
Creative use of videoconferencing can provide educational opportunities and create a sense of social inclusiveness and well-being