

Impact of Training Oncological Staff Members for Medical Evidence Search from Web Databases

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This poster describes the development of a series of instructional sessions, intended for oncological staff at the Institut Gustave-Roussy (IGR), to facilitate searches for medical evidence from web databases. IGR is an oncological hospital with teaching activities, and research divisions in clinical and experimental oncology.

Five 3-hour sessions were proposed during the first semester 2002, to fifteen oncological staff members : oncologists, researchers, medical radiophysicists, nurses. A questionnaire was e-mailed after each instructional session, with simple questions evaluating :

- The way questions were formulated with four concepts: Patients (P), Interventions (I), Comparators (C), and Outcomes (O)
- The quality of the MEDLINE search strategy
- The use of evidence-based web resources for clinical practice, research, teaching, or patient information

Preliminary results:

Attendees appreciated the interactive training.

- They identified major evidence-based web resources in oncology : Cochrane databases and practice guidelines.
- However, few of them used clearly defined clinical questions when describing the four dimensions P.I.C.O.
- The quality of their MEDLINE searches increased by using advanced functions of PubMed and evidence-based filters.
- The medical evidence retrieved via web database searches impacted favourably on oncological research and teaching activities, but had a lower impact on clinical practice and patient information. Medical evidence retrieved from web databases facilitates the acquisition of information from one domain of oncology (e.g. clinical practice) by people working in another domain (e.g. researchers or students).

Conclusion: A 3-hour interactive training session improved the oncologists' and researchers' ability to search databases and retrieve evidence and was well received by the attendees.