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OB/GYN Continuing Medical Education Prepares for Restructuring Course Modality, Due to COVID-19

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Medical ultrasound has enhanced the quality of women's health care by providing essential diagnostic evidence for obstetric and gynecologic conditions. Basic ultrasound machine understanding and functional application are essential for OB/GYN providers. For over 40 years, the Wake Forest Baptist Health (WFBH) Program for Medical Ultrasound has designed ultrasound education to include hands-on training for external and internal physicians, sonographers, and other allied health professionals. The Center for Experiential and Applied Learning (CEAL) hosts OB/GYN Ultrasound Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses on-site, at WFBH, twice per year (CME=31 hours). The five-day CME course includes gynecologic and obstetric didactic lectures with esteemed lecturers identifying anatomy and fetal development. Participants also spend four days in hands-on scanning open labs with a registered sonographer (CME=13.5 hours). Concluding the course, participants complete a post-course evaluation to receive CME credit. CEAL continuously reviews and uses the evaluation findings to make immediate course improvements. Recent changes included more robust evaluation gathering and deeper course review with faculty. COVID-19 and OB/GYN departmental changes required comparing 2018 and 2019 evaluation data to assess future modality changes. 2018 and 2019 evaluation data showed 96% and 100% of participants (n=26 and n=24) respectively rated the conference as meeting their educational needs. 80% and 79% of participants (n=26 and n=24) respectively rated the conference as having a high impact on their professional performance. Qualitative comments indicated participants desire to obtain further hands-on scanning time and an update to lecture slides. The evaluation results demonstrate the effectiveness of CEAL's educational curriculum in obstetric and gynecologic ultrasound. We remain encouraged by these findings, but see growth potential. We recognize participant's desire for additional hands-on ultrasound training as an opportunity for course enhancement, while also carefully balancing against social distancing guidelines necessitated by COVID-19. To date, CEAL has obtained new learning modality tools and evaluated virtual pre-learning opportunities with increased future hands-on scanning opportunities.

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