

CASE-BASED E-LEARNING IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE – THE NETWORM PROJECT IN GERMANY

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Abstract: The aim of the NetWoRM Project is the development, evaluation and implementation of a case-based e-learning tool for occupational medicine to increase the knowledge in clinical aspects of occupational medicine. To date, 19 e-learning cases have been developed. Cases were validated by 2 experts and user evaluated. Results of the user evaluation at 3 German Medical Schools are presented. Of 557 medical students registered for the online course 377 answered the online evaluation form (68%). Depending on the case, the median time spent on a case ranged from 25–43 minutes. Students enjoyed working with the cases and asked to replace more seminars by case-based e-learning. The level of knowledge required to work on the cases was rated high. This was supported by the fact that on median only 47–71% of the questions were answered correctly. Cases focusing on occupational health problems such as needle stick injuries were rated highest with respect to fun, importance for future career and the overall score. Students enjoy working on e-learning cases as an add-on to traditional teaching. Because of the high international interest the NetWoRM project is currently shared on an international base.

Key words: medical students, e-learning, occupational training, prevention, international collaboration.