

Research Question: Medical grand rounds – a missed opportunity?

Articles:

- 1. Current status of medical grand rounds in departments of medicine at US medical schools.** Mueller PS, Segovis CM, Litin SC, Habermann TM, Parrino TA. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* 2006;81:313-321. [PubMed Abstract](#)
- 2. Hospital grand rounds in Australia.** Tarala R, Vickery AW. *The Medical Journal of Australia*. 2005;183:592-594. [Full-Text](#)

Summary:

Mueller *et al.* conducted a survey about medical grand rounds (MGR) at departments of medicine at US medical schools. According to 99 of 133 representatives of departments that responded to the survey, 96% conducted MGR weekly, and 61% identified MGR as the 'most important' education conference. The most important objectives of MGR were providing updates in diagnosis and treatment and in medical research, and educating internal medicine house staff and faculty. Promoting collegiality was also an important objective. The most common format of MGR was the didactic lecture (95%); only 13% used interactive sessions, panel discussions, and debates as well. Only 13% of the departments assessed participant knowledge, 44% conducted educational needs assessments, 84% evaluated sessions, and 55% provided regular feedback to presenters at least half the time. CME credit was offered in 98% of the departments. MGR was noted as the most expensive conference to conduct by 87%; it was funded by institutional or departmental funding (86%), industry funds (64%) and endowed funds (27%). The most commonly reported challenges to MGR were conflicting meetings and other responsibilities and lack of presenter-attendee interaction. Interestingly, 62% of survey respondents reported that the quality of MGR had improved over time. Many of the survey questions were based on a previous survey conducted in 1988, and a comparison of results is provided. Tarala and Vickery conducted a similar questionnaire in Australian hospitals; of the 73 (of 88) hospitals that responded, 86% held regular grand rounds, 81% of those were held weekly, and there was pharmaceutical support in over half of the hospitals. Over 80% of respondents agreed that grand rounds were valuable in terms of education, hospital climate, presentation practice, forum for general discussion, exchange of ideas, professional contact and 'overall'.

Implications:

- MGR are perceived as addressing important educational and social objectives, but the authors of both these papers note the importance of incorporating a more systematic approach to MGR planning, teaching, and evaluation, and the need for innovative and evidence-based educational strategies to further enhance their potential. In addition, there is minimal mention in these studies of the impact of MGR on patient outcomes.

Further reading: The development of a participant questionnaire to assess continuing medical education presentations. Wood TJ, Marks M, Jabbour M. *Medical Education* 2005;39(6):568-72. [PubMed Abstract](#)

Read More in **JCEHP**: **Evaluating medical grand rounds.** Rothman AI, Sibbald G. *JCEHP* 2002;22(2):77-83. [Abstract](#)

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