

Poster presentation

New activity centred technology challenges students of midwifery: An evaluation

Ingrid D'Souza, Maria Miller, Jeremy Gauder, Ian Kershaw
Australian Catholic University (ACU National)

The Fetal On line Electronic Teaching & Learning (F.O.E.T.A.L) is a learning module designed to facilitate learning of Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM). The target audience incorporates students of midwifery at ACU National (Vic). Traditionally, the theoretical content was delivered face-to-face and the concepts were difficult to master in the time allocated. Therefore the decision was made to use WebCT as the learning platform and by doing so allowed the students to understand the concepts at a self-directed pace, revisit materials and practice interpretations of fetal heart rate patterns in a non-clinical practice environment.

Evaluation of F.O.E.T.A.L was conducted at the end of first semester 2006 utilising a variety of data sources: online student evaluation surveys, comments posted to the discussion area and achievements of related content in learning assessments. The focus of the evaluation was twofold: to assess the acquisition of knowledge and to beta test the F.O.E.T.A.L program. One hundred and twelve students undertook the module and 46 completed the survey.

The e-learning delivery of EFM content to these students was evaluated as being effective in enhancing knowledge and understanding. In addition, students provided valuable feedback for ongoing development of F.O.E.T.A.L. Students found that the content was extensive and that they had to spend a considerable amount of time undertaking the F.O.E.T.A.L module but it was considered as a valuable learning activity. They also commented that timely feedback was required and this could be enhanced.

Keywords: e-learning, midwifery, foetal monitoring, students, technology, WebCT

Author contact details

Ingrid D'Souza, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy, VIC 3065, Australia. Email: I.Dsouza@patrick.acu.edu.au.

Maria Miller, School of Nursing, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy, VIC 3065, Australia. Email: M.Miller@patrick.acu.edu.au.

Jeremy Gauder, ACUonline, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy, VIC 3065, Australia. Email: J.Gauder@patrick.acu.edu.au.

Ian Kershaw, ACUonline, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy, VIC 3065, Australia. Email: I.Kershaw@patrick.acu.edu.au.

Copyright © 2006 D'Souza, I., Miller, M., Gauder, J., Kershaw, I.

The author(s) assign to ascilite and educational non-profit institutions a non-exclusive licence to use this document for personal use and in courses of instruction provided that the article is used in full and this copyright statement is reproduced. The author(s) also grant a non-exclusive licence to ascilite to publish this document on the ascilite web site (including any mirror or archival sites that may be developed) and in electronic and printed form within the *ascilite Conference Proceedings*. Any other usage is prohibited without the express permission of the author(s). For the appropriate way of citing this article, please see the frontmatter of the *Conference Proceedings*.