

Introduction and assessment of the annual anatomy review course for Obstetrics and Gynaecology residency program at the University of Ottawa

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Keywords:	Gynecology residency program, anatomy review course, assessment, curriculum

Our annual resident anatomy course consists of a day of didactic lectures reviewing female pelvic anatomy followed by a day at the anatomy laboratory, reinforcing this didactic information by reviewing over 20 different specimens and cadavers. This is supervised by an anatomy staff member and 2 surgical gynecology fellows. In addition, there is 1 cadaver station dedicated to teaching hands-on retropubic urethropexy procedures. We sought to evaluate the effectiveness of this course.

For assessment purposes, we developed a 6-page illustration booklet of different anatomy figures and requested identification of highlighted structures before and after the course. We also evaluated the residents' perception of the program with a feedback form.

The results showed an overall improvement in the booklet scores after completion of the course. The mean pre-test and post-test scores were 25 and 35.5 respectively. Overall pre- to post-test results improved by 44%. There was a moderate improvement in the scores as the postgraduate year advanced. The residents' feedback evaluation forms had 4 different categories: course content, specimen appropriateness, time allocated and instructor rating, rated from 1 to 5. The mean evaluations were calculated and ranged from 4.4 to 4.6.

In conclusion, this review course does result in an improvement in the residents' ability to identify relevant anatomical figures and is highly rated by the residents. The course seems to be an essential and popular part of our postgraduate teaching program. Future directions include assessment of retention of information with a delayed post-test.