INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

A weeklong elective can be created with the help of a faculty sponsor who oversees the clinical experience.

The director of the division of pediatric and adolescent gynecology and an adolescent medicine physician were the faculty sponsors for my experience.

The elective’s objectives and their relationships to our clinical competencies were submitted for approval prior to the elective.

The elective combines time in outpatient clinics and in the operating room focused on pediatric and adolescent gynecology.

OBJECTIVES

To allow medical students the opportunity to gain insight into particular medical fields with limited exposure in the traditional curriculum; therefore, a weeklong student-designed flexible clinical experience was created in pediatric and adolescent gynecology.

BACKGROUND

• It has been shown that exposure to clinical experiences and mentors are influential on medical students and their future career decisions.

• The University of Massachusetts Medical School has created a program that allows third year medical students to create up to four weeklong electives that encourage exploration in new fields of medicine.

• During the obstetrics and gynecology rotation, there is limited exposure to working with the pediatric and adolescent population regarding sensitive topics such as contraception, teen pregnancy, and congenital anomalies of the female reproductive tract.

• As a student interested in obstetrics and gynecology, I wanted more experience working with this specific population.

REFERENCES


REFLECTIONS

• Flexible clinical electives enable students the opportunity to pause from structured clinical days to reflect on career development.

• This experience also allows students the ability to develop mentor relationships with experts in a subspecialized field.

• This elective afforded me knowledge and skills in a subspecialty that I never would have seen in the traditional curriculum.

• The main limitation of this experience is the brief length of each elective, and thus extending the length would allow students to gather a more complete experience.

• While it is easy to understand why these electives are one week long given the need for the remaining traditional curriculum, perhaps all students could be given the opportunity to have two consecutive weeks of elective time to allow for even more exposure in one area of interest.

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Labor and Delivery Shadowing</td>
<td>Shadowing in a Teen Parents Program</td>
<td>Operating Room for Pediatric/Adolescent Gynecology Cases</td>
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<td>Pediatric Gynecology Clinic</td>
<td>Teen Pregnancy Clinic</td>
<td>Adolescent Medicine Clinic</td>
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Innovations in Medical Education: A Student Designed Flexible Clinical Elective in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

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