Implementation of a Radiology Resident Morbidity and Mortality Conference as an Educational and Quality Improvement Tool
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Concept

• No radiology Morbidity and Mortality conference existed for diagnostic radiology residents at Northwestern
• Residents voiced an interest to establish a forum where we could see and learn from each other’s experiences
• We sought to implement a series of Morbidity and Mortality conferences run by and for residents
Plan: Study aims

• To destigmatize medical errors
• To create a just culture where residents may freely discuss errors without feeling criticized or punished
• To minimize “misses” by radiology residents on call and improve patient care

Scaphoid fracture
Do: Collect and Display M&M Cases

- Cases were submitted by residents and collected from a log of “re-read” forms kept by the Emergency Department.
- Average of 27 re-reads per month at our institution ranging from trivial (e.g., 2 mm pulmonary nodule) to critically important (e.g., subdural hemorrhage).
- Quarterly conferences with an online survey after the 2nd conference.
- 30-40 cases were displayed at each conference.
Conference Format

- Cases with educational benefit were selected by senior radiology housestaff
- Cases were anonymized with all patient and radiologist information removed
- Cases were displayed and discussed
- Residents were encouraged to ask questions, share experiences, and discuss teaching points

C1 burst fracture on last slice of CT brain with motion
Study: Survey Results

- 10 question online survey
- 29/36 respondents
- Residents from all training levels and various planned specialties represented
Study: Survey Results

• Most (~75%) of residents responded that they were comfortable discussing personal errors in front of their peers.
Study: Survey Results

- However, most residents also preferred anonymity when cases were shown.

Should Morbidity & Mortality cases be shown anonymously?
Study: Survey Results

- Residents were divided when it came to allowing attending physicians to be present for the conferences.

Should attending radiologists be present at the Morbidity & Mortality conferences?

- Green: No, residents only
- Blue: Yes, a few select attendings should be present for discussion and education purposes
- Yellow: Yes, any attending should be allowed to attend if they wish

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Department of Radiology
Study: Survey Results

- Essentially all residents endorsed that M&M conferences contributed to their education and would impact their future call shifts.
Act: Use information to tailor M&M conferences

- Keep anonymous
- No attendings allowed
- Hold either monthly or quarterly
- Focus on commonly missed topics

Pneumomediastinum
Future Goals

• Track resident “re-read” rates over time with the goal of decreasing errors
• Maintain a just culture amongst our residents where errors are destigmatized
• Promote resident education
Conclusion

• Resident Morbidity and Mortality conferences have educational benefit for radiology trainees
• Conference format can be readily replicated at other institutions
• Accommodating resident preferences regarding anonymity and attending presence is important