

# #119

## Impact of Training Oncological Staff Members for Medical Evidence Search from Web Databases

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A series of instructional sessions for medical evidence seeking was developed for oncological staff of the Institut Gustave-Roussy. IGR is a comprehensive Cancer Center composed by an oncological hospital with teaching activities, and research divisions in clinical and experimental oncology.

### Objectives of the Training Session

- \* Summarize EBM main concepts
- \* Identify key evidence web databases, specifically the Cochrane Library.
- \* Conduct Evidence-Based citations searches in PubMed.

### Planning of a 3-hour Hands-on Session

1. Evidence-Based Information (PowerPoint presentation, 30 minutes)
  - \* EBM key concepts and publication types : clinical epidemiological studies and secondary publications : meta-analysis, systematic reviews, clinical guidelines;
  - \* Clinical question formulation with PICO concepts: Patients (P), Interventions (I), Comparators (C), and Outcomes (O)
2. Exploring Internet for Evidence Resources in Oncology (Guided search, 60 minutes)
  - \* Identifying the Cochrane Library databases ;
  - \* Locating French and international guidelines, recommendations in oncology ;
3. Searching Evidence with PubMed (MEDLINE Practice exercises, 90 minutes).

### Evaluation of the Sessions

A survey questionnaire was used to evaluate attendees searching performances:

- I. Clinical question formulation;
- II. Optimal literature databases search strategies for evidence citations retrieving;
- III. Use of evidence information for oncological practice, patient information, research, or teaching activities.

At the beginning of each session, the attendees were questioned to evaluate their uses of medical web databases.

A post-training questionnaire was e-mailed, with simple questions aimed at evaluating their current searches.

### Findings

- 1) Few of the attendees formulated clinical questions with PICO.
- 2) The quality of their MEDLINE searches increased.
- 3) Key Evidence-Based web resources in oncology were well identified.
- 4) The medical evidence retrieved impacted upon oncological research and teaching activities, but had a lower impact on clinical practice and patient information.

Medical evidence retrieved from web databases facilitates the acquisition of oncological information from one domain of activity (e.g. clinical practice) by people working in another domain (e.g. researchers or students).

### CONCLUSION

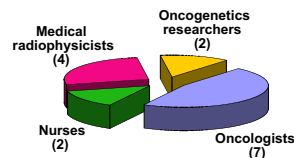
A 3-hour interactive training session geared to meet the needs of IGR oncological staff,

- \* improved oncologists' and researchers' literature searching skills,
  - \* from Cochrane Library databases,
  - \* and from MEDLINE to retrieve medical evidence,
- The session was well received by the attendees.

### Preliminary Results

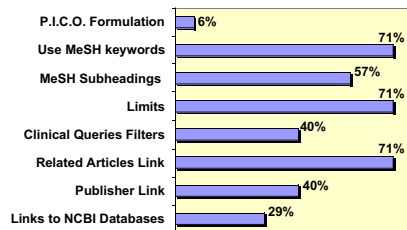
- \* Five 3-hour sessions were proposed during the first semester 2002.
- \* A total of fifteen members of IGR staff attended the sessions .

#### a) Who are the attendees ?



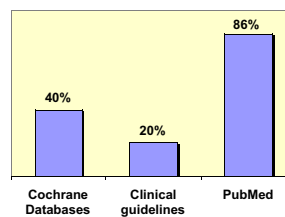
Two nurses attended the session, but did not complete the questionnaire. Nurses' workloads remain so heavy that it is difficult to add even an effective new method of retrieving clinical information.

#### b) How do they formulate their search ?



This self-reported use of PubMed clearly shows the positive impact of training on the quality of the MEDLINE search strategy.

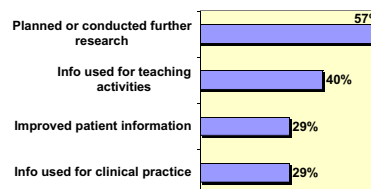
#### c) Which internet resources are being searched ?



Cochrane Databases, guidelines sites are well identified, and PubMed remains the predominant resource.

#### d) How is information used ?

More important than the quality of the search results per se is the impact that medical evidence searches have on IGR members activities.



The main reasons for searching for medical evidence are to find information in order to improve oncological research and teaching activities.

### Bibliography

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