



Great Evidence in Medical education Summary (GEMeS)

Each month, the Education working group of CAEP's Academic Section will be bringing you a Great Evidence in Medical education summary. This new section is targeted to highlight key, useful medical education literature that the entire membership might find useful.

Yours truly,

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GEMeS Team Leads

Education Question or Problem:

Are the answers generated by interns (PGY1s) using information from a Google search comparable in accuracy to answers generated via online subscription-based library resources?

Bottom Line:

Yes. A Google search helped interns yield similarly accurate answers when compared to online subscription-based library resources. Since Google searches by interns are easier and cheaper than subscription-based services, it may be possible to forego adjunctive library searches for this group and still maintain relatively accurate answers.

Details

Study Design: Randomized, controlled, crossover study. From 2011-2013.

Funding sources: None

Setting: Internal Medicine program, Rutgers University

Level of Learning: First year interns (Postgraduate year 1, PGY1)

Reference: Academic Medicine, Vol 89, No 6, June 2014

DOI: [10.1097/ACM.0000000000000244](https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0000000000000244)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24871247>

Synopsis of Study:

To compare the speed and accuracy of answering clinical questions, the investigators asked 48 interns randomly assigned to Google vs summary resources (EBSCO's DynaMed, Elsevier's First Consult, Wiley's Essential Evidence Plus) to each answer 480 questions (10 questions a week over 48 weeks). Time to completion of task, response rates, and accuracy were all found to be not significantly different.

Why is it relevant to Emergency Medicine Education?

The fast-paced setting of the Emergency Department (ED) requires easy access to point-of-care resources, especially for junior learners. As such, the accuracy, accessibility and subscription cost of resources are important to consider.

Summary by Drs. April Kam & Teresa Chan (McMaster University)