

Medical Student Project for Introduction to Anesthesiology

This project is designed to give you practice in Evidence Based Medicine and answering your clinical questions. Evidence Based Medicine is the use of current medical literature to guide clinical care. It requires practitioners to be able to formulate clinical questions, find evidence that addresses the question, and critique its usefulness. You will have approximately one week to work on the project, and will present it briefly to the group at the end of the rotation. Your write-up should be approximately two pages in length, with the article attached afterwards. Your process and write-up should follow the steps listed below.

- 1) Given your experience in the OR so far, generate a specific clinical question about something you have seen. The more specific your question is, the more easily you will find an appropriate study that will answer your question. For instance, it is often helpful to define the specific population you are interested in (pediatric, trauma, chronic pain patients, patients undergoing knee surgery, etc.), the specific test or intervention you are interested in, and the specific outcome you are interested in. In your write-up give a brief introduction to the clinical setting that led you to formulate the question, and the question you came up with.
- 2) Find an article that addresses the question you have formulated. The OHSU library website is excellent, and provides many journals on-line. Both OVID and Pub Med are good places to start your search. In your write-up, briefly state how you found the article you came up with.
- 3) Evaluate the article you found for study design (including strengths and weaknesses), potential sources of bias, and applicability to your clinical question and how it would guide your answer to the question. There are several worksheets that are available to help you in your analysis from the website of the Centre for Health Evidence at <http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp> Copies of some of the worksheets will be available for reference on my door. The worksheets are different depending on what sort of article you choose, and help you make a logical analysis of what the article means.
- 4) Discuss what the implications for your clinical question are given the evidence you found.

Please feel free to ask myself, or anyone else in the department or otherwise for advice or help at anytime.