

# VIRTUAL MRCP 1 TEACHING FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE TRAINEES ACROSS WEST MIDLANDS DEANERY

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## BACKGROUND

- MRCP Part 1 - a **challenging exam** with a pass rate of only 53% in 2020.
- Effect of COVID pandemic - exam preparation made incredibly difficult with redeployments, high service pressures and formal IMT teaching cancelled.
- Trainees were experiencing burnout with the mental and physical exhaustion common during the peak of the pandemic.
- There was a need to develop novel ways to use the most **up-to-date online platforms to allow distanced, but social sessions to help trainees ace this exam, which is vital for career progression**

## METHOD

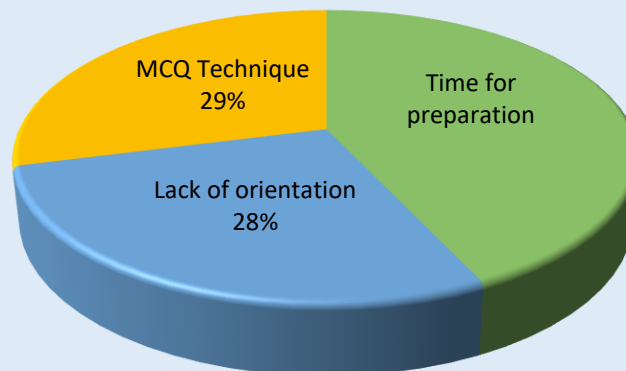
- We developed and organised a **Virtual Course** for MRCP1 exam preparation for Internal Medicine Trainees across West Midlands Deanery.
- Series of sessions (Feb-Apr'21) using Microsoft Teams, after work.
- Each session lasted 2 hours:  
**Final half** – quick revision of high yield topics and commonly encountered themes using PowerPoint Presentation and providing useful mnemonics.  
**Final half** - we discussed Multiple Choice Questions, while highlighting the clincers and "cues" in question statements and building on the important concept of "pattern recognition" in RCP exams.
- 20% Discount to a Question bank

## RESULTS

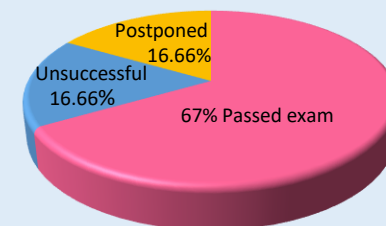
- 1) Feedback was collected using SurveyMonkey
- 2) 12-16 trainees attended these session
- 3) Trainees rated these sessions as "excellent" .
- 4) Feedback included comments, that it was "concise", "well-structured", "relevant", "guided their exam preparation", and was "more interactive than any other online teaching".
- 5) 12 trainees regularly joined these sessions - out of which 8 (67%) trainees passed, 2 (16.66%) were unsuccessful, while 2 trainees (16.66%) postponed their attempts

## PRE-COURSE SURVEY

Perceived barriers to passing MRCP1 as per Pre-Course Survey



Exam Results after Course



## CONCLUSION

Structured online teaching can be used as a key tool in Postgraduate exam preparation The MRCP1 course has gained huge popularity in our Deanery. We have built up on our project and re-organized it this year whereby sessions are being recorded, and uploaded on PGVLE website so that trainees can access them 'on-demand' and not miss out due to on-call commitments.

We have secured a wonderful learning resource for all future Internal Medicine Trainees joining our Deanery in years to come.

| Questions                                                                 | Survey Results (n = 29)            |                 |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Grade of internal medicine trainees                                       | IMT1s<br>55.55                     | IMT2s<br>37.45% | IMT3s<br>7% |
| Have you attempted MRCP 1 before ?                                        | Never 29%<br>Once 22%<br>> 2 = 48% |                 |             |
| Is MRCP 1 teaching conducted locally at your Trust ?                      | Yes (11%)<br>No (88.9%)            |                 |             |
| Would you be interested in attending a Virtual MRCP1 teaching programme ? | Yes (100%)<br>No (0%)              |                 |             |