The Use Of Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for Residency Interviews: The Wave of the Future?

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The Use Of Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for Residency Interviews: The Wave of the Future?

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Introduction: Residency applications along with interview travel and hotel expense require increasing funds for the average residency applicant. Emergency medicine (EM), in particular, is currently among the more competitive specialties. EM candidates feel pressure to apply to a higher number of programs in order to match. In addition, the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) has a crescendo fee schedule that penalizes the applicant with more than ten applications. This environment challenges the EM residency applicant to survive the interview season without incurring debt.

Educational Objectives: Our research survey examines the use of Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) methods such as FaceTime or Skype for residency interviews.

Curricular Design: All interview candidates were anonymously surveyed at an urban EM program with 36 positions after the rank order lists were submitted. The survey revealed that on average the candidates applied to 59 programs and interviewed at 16 programs. It also showed that 38% of the respondents had financial constraints during interview season. Fifty-five percent of those who replied said they would consider VoIP for interviewing and 32% said that they would select a residency program without a visit. This environment challenges the EM residency applicant to survive the interview season without incurring debt.

Impact: Our results indicate that VoIP interviews are an effective means of assisting programs with high meal and hotel costs. More importantly, our survey indicates that student applicants strapped with the increasing financial burden of escalating application fees and travel expense would find VoIP an attractive adjunct to the in-person interview.

Critical Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Actions</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Diagnose perforated viscus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Orders upright X-ray or complete Abdo series</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Consults Surgery</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Begins antibiotics prior to OR</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Percentage of candidates who reported they would consider VoIP as a form of interviewing.

Figure 2. Percentage of candidates who reported they would select a residency program without a visit.

Ultrasound Mini Fellowship

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Introduction/Background: Training in the use of emergency ultrasound (EUS) is an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requirement for all emergency medicine (EM) residency programs. There are many EM residency programs with EM faculty who have limited to no training in the core EUS applications. A lack of proficiency by EM faculty is an obstacle to adequate EUS training for residents, and a barrier to the use of ultrasound in daily practice.

Educational Objectives: Increased capability and comfort-level of EUS performed by EM faculty; improved EUS training of EM residents by EM faculty; increased EUS credentialing of EM faculty; increased utilization of clinical EUS by EM faculty; increased EM faculty productivity; and, increased patient safety and patient satisfaction.

Curricular Design: The mini-fellowship is a 4-week comprehensive, skill-building curriculum (see Figure 1). It focuses on developing competency in core EUS applications...