

The Art of Mastering Oral Case Presentations: A Third Year Medical Student's Perspective

Purpose: Oral case presentations (OCPs) play important roles in patient care, team communication, and medical student education. OCPs involve presenting patient information in a standardized manner to the rest of the team with the goal of providing justification for a diagnostic and therapeutic plan, followed by reflections and additional insights from other team members. At this time, there is limited guidance or best practices available in the education literature, especially from the perspective of the learners themselves.

Objectives: Our goal was to identify key strategies, supported by the literature and practical peer advice, to help medical students succeed in OCPs during their clerkships. We specifically sought to share advice written from the perspective of a then third-year medical student.

Methods: We conducted a literature review from 10/2021 to 1/2022 using the following databases: PubMed, MEDLINE, Web of Science, and Embase. Keywords such as "oral case presentation," "case presentation," "oral presentation," "cognitive load theory," "deliberate practice medical education," "note taking memory," and "SOAP notes" were used. We selected only articles that were written in English. Additionally, we consulted with stakeholders and education experts and refined our findings through an iterative consensus-building process.

Results: We identified seven key strategies: pre-rounding consistently, collecting data efficiently, running essential portions of the presentation by the team, learning and practicing the format, trending results, committing to a plan, and soliciting feedback. These strategies provide guidance for medical students from the perspective of a peer to help them master OCPs regardless of specialty.

Conclusion: After consultation with education experts and stakeholders and conduction of a literature review, we created an infographic from the perspective of a then third-year medical student with seven strategies for success and associated practical tips to help medical students master OCPs from the beginning of their clerkship rotations.