

Abstract

Much of rural Colorado resides at high altitude where there is a decrease in temperature, ambient humidity, and partial pressure of oxygen. Such environmental features can become maladaptive and cause dehydration. Further illness risks accompany Colorado mountain towns because of weather exposures, physical exertion events taking place in the mountains, and patient co-morbidities less tolerant to altitude change. Dehydration is a significant source of morbidity and mortality as both a symptom and primary disorder under these conditions. It requires management appropriate to patient presentation during diagnosis and treatment of the underlying disorder. This teaching module is designed for the medical professional students in the Rural Track at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus who are likely to encounter patients with conditions involving dehydration in their future practice. This module consists of patient vignettes designed to have students make treatment and diagnostic decisions concurrently while forming a differential diagnosis in different clinical settings. Students will have to select treatment decisions to appropriately manage symptoms while receiving more information on their patient for proper diagnosis and definitive treatment. The patient vignettes center on a classic presentation of an illness common to Colorado mountain towns with dehydration management, but will vary in severity of illness, patient demographics, and clinical setting.

Aim

The aim is to use case-based learning to better prepare future physicians to care for patients in rural Colorado. Professional students of the rural track are

expected to better grasp management during diagnosis of dehydration conditions as part of this teaching module.

Zoom URL (for capstone presentation)

<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/98032944419>