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The effectiveness of a webinar-based virtual journal club to promote medical education

Submission date 16/06/2021	**Recruitment status** No longer recruiting	[X] Prospectively registered [X] Protocol [_] Statistical analysis plan [_] Results [_] Individual participant data [X] Record updated in last year
Registration date 09/08/2021	**Overall study status** Completed	
Last Edited 13/02/2026	**Condition category** Other	

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

A journal club (JC) is a group of individuals who meet regularly to evaluate critically the clinical application of recent articles in the medical literature.

JCs are uniquely geared to encourage debate and discussion about a particular topic or article driven by faculty or peers thus offering an informal peer-to-peer teaching style with a semi-structured format.

The aim of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a webinar-based, virtual, structured, focused, interactive journal club to promote learning and knowledge among medical trainees compared to a classical group, face-to-face journal club.

Who can participate?

Postgraduate and undergraduate medical trainees who are currently enrolled in an accredited medical course or a training programme in the UK.

What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly allocated to either a virtual web-based or a face-to-face JC. Both groups will be presented with similar educational material and follow a standardised JC structure hosted by nominated moderators and medical faculty members. The intervention duration is a one-hour educational session with a follow-up one week after.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no significant risks for this study. This study involves trainees only who are already expected to engage and undertake Journal club as part of their ongoing development and training. Some trainees may feel obliged to take part however, the voluntary nature of this study will be reiterated at all opportunities as well as the fact that their participation or not will not impact on their training in any way. This study could contribute to a change in the ways in which journal clubs are run in the future thus saving trainees time, and unnecessary travel.

Where is the study run from?

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
August 2020 to December 2023

Who is funding the study?
West Midlands Clinical Research Network (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr.Bassel H.Al Wattar, b.wattar@nhs.net

Contact information

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Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
The effectiveness of a webinar-based virtual journal club to promote medical education (Web-Ed): a randomized controlled trial

Acronym
Web-Ed

Study objectives
The aim is to evaluate the effectiveness, feasibility and acceptability of a webinar-based virtual journal club (JC) compared to face-to-face group-based JC as an educational tool among medical trainees.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Ethics approval was not required according to the HRA decision assessment tool

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Randomized controlled trial

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Medical education

Interventions
Participants will be randomised using online computer software and allocated to either a virtual web-based or a face-to-face JC. Both groups will be presented with similar educational material and follow a standardised JC structure hosted by nominated moderators and medical faculty members.

The intervention duration is a one-hour educational session with a follow-up one week after.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
Participants' knowledge acquisition assessed using five multiple-choice questions about the journal club article. The questions will be provided electronically to allow answers to be submitted using the participants' mobile phone immediately after the intervention and then one week afterwards. A sum up score will be calculated and stored automatically for each participant.

Key secondary outcome(s)
Feasibility and acceptability of the intervention assessed by a short survey of close-ended questions immediately after the intervention and then one week afterwards, with Likert scales anchored between 1 (low) and 9 (high) to assess the qualitative outcomes. All answers will be submitted electronically to the trial online database using the participants' mobile phones

Completion date

10/12/2023

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Qualified doctors or medical students undertaking formal clinical training in an accredited medical training programme within the NHS
2. Medical students affiliated to an established UK medical university who are undertaking their clinical attachment within the NHS are eligible to participate in Web-Ed
3. Over 18 years of age at the time of enrolment
4. Able to provide electronic consent
5. Good command of the English language
6. Proficient in using basic online meeting software

Participant type(s)
Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
18 Years

Upper age limit
100 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
44

Key exclusion criteria
1. Any non-medic trainees
2. Non-qualified doctors
3. Under 18 years of age
4. Not proficient in online meeting software

Date of first enrolment
20/09/2021

Date of final enrolment
01/09/2022

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Mytton Oak
Shrewsbury
England
SY8 3SD

Sponsor information

Organisation
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

ROR
https://ror.org/047feaw16

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Clinical Research Network: West Midlands

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request (b.wattar@nhs.net). Data will become available after publishing the results in peer reviewed journals for 5 years.
Data can be share by making a direct request to the data custodian stating how the data will be used and for what purpose.
All participants will provide a written E-consent before enrolling in the trial.
All data will be pseudo anonymised before the analysis.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		16/06/2022	17/06/2022	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	version 0.1	27/06/2021	30/07/2021	No	Yes