IMPROVING CLINICAL DECISIONS IN PAH MANAGEMENT: SIMULATION IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

Jelena S. Spyropoulos, PhD, Catherine C. Capparelli, CHCP
Medscape, LLC, New York, NY, USA

PURPOSE

- Patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) are often not appropriately assessed and treated.
- This study was conducted to determine if an online, virtual patient simulation (VPS)-based continuing medical education (CME) intervention could improve performance of pulmonologists and cardiologists in the management of patients with PAH.

METHODS

- The CME intervention consisted of 2 cases presented in a VPS platform that allowed learners to order laboratory tests, make diagnoses, and recommend/treatments from a range of options matching the scope and depth of actual practice.
- The clinical decisions made by the learners in open field responses similar to electronic health records were analyzed using an artificial intelligence engine, and clinical guidance (CG) was then provided based on current evidence and expert recommendation.
- Learner decisions were collected after CG and compared with each user’s base-line (pre-CG) decisions using a 2-tailed, paired t-test.

RESULTS

Improvements were observed after clinical guidance related to patient assessment and diagnosis (Figure 1a) and coordination of care (Figure 1b) for patients with PAH.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that CME utilizing VPS methodology that immerses and engages specialists for an authentic, simulation-based CME intervention could improve performance of pulmonologists and cardiologists in the management of patients with PAH.

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Using VPS-based CME to improve performance of pulmonologists and cardiologists has the potential to translate into improvements in clinical care and patient outcomes.

References


Acknowledgements

This CME-certified activity was supported by an independent educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline Medical Affairs.

For more information contact Jelena Spyropoulos, PhD, Director of Clinical Strategy, Medscape, LLC at jspyropoulos@medscape.net

Accepted April 2016.