

TIPS: PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING DISCUSSIONS

PBLDs

The purpose of problem based learning is to provide the participant the opportunity to engage in active discussion that will allow them to compare new information with the information they already have and be able to integrate new concepts into their thinking. Struggling through “problems” and finding their own resources for resolving unanswered questions is a key to PBL. It will be very tempting to jump in and provide answers but remember the value is in being able to figure it out themselves.

General Format for PBL:

1. There will be **1 leader per PBLD** and 10 participants around a table. All PBLDs will be conducted in one large room.
2. The total time allotted for each PBLD is 50 minutes. Each PBLD session will run twice, back to back. There will be a **10 min break** between the first 4 PBLDs (PBLD #1 - #4) and the second 4 PBLDs (PBLD #5 - #8)
3. No AV equipment for a PowerPoint presentation or microphone will be provided.
4. The aim of a case discussion is to use a case to highlight problems in or aspects of anaesthesia practice. It is meant to be informal. It should be interactive. The audience will expect to engage in questions and answers throughout the case discussion and not just at the end.
5. Each PBLD will have a Case Outline which will be E-mailed to participants one month before the meeting.
6. Please see Case Outline as an example. Please limit the number of references, i.e. no more than 5-7 key references

TIPS:

1. Establish ground rules with the participants e.g. this is an interactive session in which you get to ask as many questions as you like. All questions are welcome. I am here to serve as a guide to your thinking and answer questions when the group is stuck.
2. After reading the case to be discussed asked participants for their thoughts and reactions. Have a few leading questions ready in case the group has difficulty getting started.
3. When a question has been articulated, ask other members of the group to provide answers before you step in. remember your role is to serve as a guide – not an expert. Only provide answers when participants have truly reached a dead end.
4. If asked a question directly, ask if other members of the group have anything to say before you answer. The goal is to have as many people participating as possible – if you answer the questions you will end up with a lecture in a small group!