

Neonatology as perceived by medical students: word cloud analysis of reflective single word summarisation (SWS)

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Rationale

- Word cloud (WC) is a visual representation of a collection of text documents that uses various font sizes, colours, and spaces to arrange and depict significant words.
- Word cloud generated from spontaneously articulated views by medical students as a single word summarisation (SWS) could assist in medical teaching.

Methods

- A descriptive study in the NICU of University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL) for five years from October 2012 to September 2017.
- One faculty member prospectively recorded the SWS of neonatology by medical students. Hospital audit committee approved study as a quality improvement project (QIP).
- Online WC generator under an open source license was used to compute the WC.

Findings

- Total of 268 SWS were generated from 268 graduate entry medical students who had neonatal rotations over five years.
- Words reflecting 'abstract' concepts predominated (182/268) compared to 'concrete' concepts (86/268) with $p < 0.005$.
- Feedback data showed SWS and WC generation as unique 152/268 (56.7%), stimulating 142/268 (55.2%) and creative 130/268 (48.5%). Interestingly 72/268 (26.8%) found it as a fun.
- Power point slides of WC aided students to reflect on visual impact of their chosen words.

