

Skin Cancer PBL: Overview

Introduction

Emily, a freshman at Emory University, has noticed a mole on her back that changed shape and is increasingly itchy. She spends a lot of time sunbathing and swimming in the new outdoor pool and doesn't use sunscreen very often, but she believes that cancer is an 'old person's disease'. Emily goes to the Student Health Services to get it checked out. Does she have cancer or not?

Case Objectives

1. To gain a basic understanding of cancer, and explain the difference between a benign and malignant cancer.
2. To understand and identify different types of skin cancer.
3. To identify various risk factors as well preventive measures that one can take in order to avoid getting cancer.
4. To gain an understanding of what examinations can be done to differentiate between benign and malignant cancers.
5. To understand the various therapies available for skin cancer.

Example Implementation Schedule

Week 1

Assign Scene 1 on Monday. Answers are due one week later.

Week 2

Assign Scene 2 on Monday. Answers are due one week later. Discuss Scene 1.

Week 3

Assign Scene 3 on Monday. Answers are due one week later. Discuss Scene 2.

Final work should include:

1. List of key concepts, facts, and any learning issues.
2. List of Task Assignments
3. A weekly report that includes typed, double-spaced answers to the questions listed. Answers should be in full sentences. Also include a list of online and text resources used.
4. Group and Individual (Self) Evaluations

Grading/Evaluation

Product	5	4	3	2	1
Report	All questions answered. Thoughtful, detailed, with a lot of effort.	Questions answered with effort. Answers meet basic requirements.	Most questions answered with some effort. Level of understanding displayed is low.	Some questions answered with a minimal level of understanding and effort.	No questions answered. No effort shown. No apparent understanding of the material.

Resources used in creating PBL:

National Institutes of Health: What You Need to Know About™: Melanoma

http://www.cancer.gov/pdf/WYNTK/WYNTK_Melanoma.pdf

American Cancer Society: Learn About Skin Cancer – Melanoma

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/lrn/lrn_0.asp

CancerQuest: Introduction to Skin Cancer

<http://cancerquest.org/index.cfm?page=3002>

Assessment

What Went Well

What Could Be Improved

Case developed by:

Ghazala Dato and Gregg Orloff, Ph.D.

CancerQuest

