



# Webinar as Future of Continued Medical Education: a Survey

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COVID-19 pandemic has affected our daily life in every aspect like educational, professional, economic, and social. It is a matter to be discussed if some of these COVID-era transitional steps in form of telemedicine and imparting medical education via virtual platforms will be preserved in the future [1]. Ongoing CME helps in teaching of several new modalities and instructional techniques, thus making it more important for surgical fields. Webinars have been used regularly by academic institutions as a means of communicating with, imparting knowledge to a large number of delegates and facilitating real-time discussion with their members [2].

A survey was conducted by feedback form from doctors of a tertiary care teaching institute who were attending webinar for continued medical education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey participants were 66 and 58 (87.8%) and had not used any webinar platforms before the pandemic. Out of them, 60 (90.9%) felt that webinars are relevant and tailored to their learning needs, 44 (66.6%) found them cost-effective, and 26 (39.4%) found webinars helpful to cope with the stress of COVID. Among lacunas, 36 (54.5%) had experienced problem of being not so internet friendly, a hindrance in these sessions initially; 46 (69.6%) felt distracted being at home; 36 (54.5%) felt lack of face-to-face interaction; and 42 (63.6%) felt bad about not going to conferences/CME and meeting colleagues. Still owing to ongoing second wave of COVID-19, 63 (95.4%) felt that webinars are the only way of dispersing knowledge in this devastating pandemic whereas 42 (63.6%) opined that webinars should be used for continued medical education in the future also. Only 6 (9.1%) were concerned or aware of any security issues.

Results of our study were concordant with a similar study done in the UK in which 83% of the respondents said that they will keep on using the webinar platform after the pandemic and social distancing is over. However, the need to transfer all professional and educational activities to cyberspace was the main concern responsible for raising doubts about using webinar as a tool [2].

As found in our survey and highlighted in literature also, there are numerous advantages of webinars such as they can be recorded allowing anyone to benefit from the session at a later date [3]. Studies have mentioned several negative aspects of webinars such as poor engagement of listeners as the presenter does not see the listeners and the option to record webinars for future reference [3, 4]. Studies have proposed that a break in conversation during webinar is needed as interruptions can be more disruptive. Others have felt that similar problems like poor internet connection and technical glitches can adversely affect the quality of the session [4, 5]. The main limitation of our study is that it is a single-centre study with a small sample size.

Despite the fact that many lacunas were being experienced by participants, still webinars emerged as future of medical education owing to long-duration pandemic of COVID-19. In addition, appropriate technological infrastructure should be used to ensure a better learning experience.

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## Declarations

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare no competing interests.

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