

An Analysis of Clinical Questions Asked at Professor Rounds: A Ten-Year Review of Topics

Nancy A. Bianchi, MSLIS, Pediatrics Liaison Librarian

Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont

Poster designed by Susan Bishop



RESULTS

306 clinical questions collected (2003 – 2013)

Subject Frequency:

MeSH Descriptor	n (%)
Nervous System Diseases	48 (16%)
Bacterial Infections and Mycoses	35 (11%)
Digestive System Diseases	34 (11%)
Chemicals and Drugs	31 (10%)
Cardiovascular Diseases	29 (9%)
Respiratory Tract Diseases	25 (8%)
Musculoskeletal Diseases	17 (6%)
Neoplasms	16 (5%)
Hemic and Lymphatic Diseases	16 (5%)
Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms	16 (5%)
Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques	16 (5%)
Congenital, Hereditary, & Neonatal Dis & Abnormal	13 (4%)
Psychiatry and Psychology	10 (3%)
Virus Diseases	10 (3%)
Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases	7 (2%)
Wounds and Injuries	7 (2%)
Immune System Diseases	6 (2%)
Male Urogenital Diseases	5 (2%)
Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	5 (2%)
Eye Diseases	4 (1%)
Chemically-Induced Disorders	3 (1%)

Subject areas with 2 or fewer MeSH descriptors:

Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena;
Embryonic Structures; Female Urogenital Diseases; Fluids and Secretions; Otorhinolaryngologic Diseases; Stomatognathic Diseases

Top Ten MeSH Subheadings:

Subheading	n (%)
Complications (co)	41 (13%)
Drug Therapy (dt)	31 (10%)
Epidemiology (ep)	24 (8%)
Diagnosis (di)	23 (8%)
Etiology (et)	21 (7%)
Adverse Effects (ae)	16 (5%)
Genetics (ge)	14 (5%)
Radiography (ra)	11 (4%)
Chemically Induced (ci)	10 (3%)
Therapy (th)	9 (3%)

Introduction

- Questions asked at residents' educational conferences can be valuable catalysts for learning
- Although finding answers to these queries is the ultimate goal, the **topics of these questions** themselves can be equally instructive

Methods

- Pediatric Professor Rounds is a bi-weekly educational conference attended by residents, medical students, university faculty, community preceptors, and a liaison librarian
- Each conference highlights a general pediatric, PICU, NICU, or outpatient case presentation
- Librarian participates by:
 - Actively listening
 - Noting pertinent details
 - Gathering questions that arise



Objective

- To analyze clinical questions asked at Professor Rounds by using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Most Common MeSH/Subheading Combinations:

MeSH/Subheading	n (%)
Nervous System Diseases	15 (5%)
Chemicals and Drugs	12 (4%)
Digestive System Diseases	12 (4%)
Cardiovascular Diseases	11 (4%)
Path Conditions, Signs & Symptoms	10 (3%)
Bacterial Infections and Mycoses	9 (3%)
Respiratory Tract Diseases	9 (3%)
Hemic and Lymphatic Diseases	9 (3%)

Additional Findings:

Questions	n (%)
Used two MeSH headings	84 (27%)
Included Subheading	284 (93%)
Classified as non-clinical	8 (3%)

Conclusions

Knowing the subject of questions that arise at residents' educational conferences can help guide . . .

- the teaching content of clinical training sessions
- the development of medical information resources

Implications

- Educators, librarians, and authors/editors can more effectively meet the information needs of healthcare students and professionals by studying the subjects of questions asked at educational conferences