# Teaching With Our Learners' Questions

Tom G. McGinn, MD, MPH W. Scott Richardson, MD Mark C. Wilson, MD, MPH

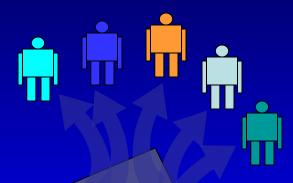




**Act & Assess** 

Acquire

**Evidence Cycle of EBCP** 



**Appraise** 

Apply

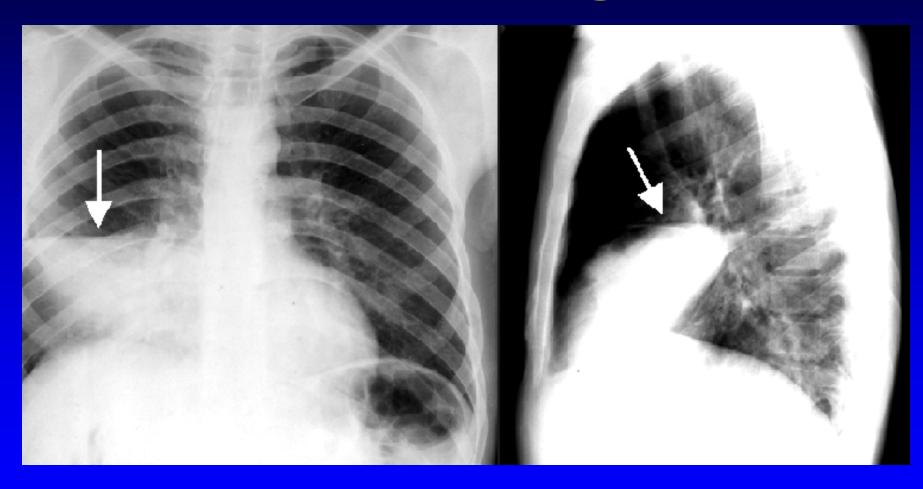
# Listen Carefully ...

- Put yourself in this situation
- Listen to the presentation
- ... and ...
- Listen to the "inner thoughts" of this teacher listening to the presentation

#### Tom's just seen a patient:

- 67M, presents with breathlessness
- 2 weeks: †weight, progressive edema
- 3 days: cough & purulent sputum
- Past: Rheumatoid arthritis, Felty's syndrome, heart failure
- Rx: steroids, furosemide, metoprolol
- Exam: lung crackles, splenomegaly

# Chest Radiograph



# 'Hoot Groups' Task



- Groups of 2 3
- Describe:

   a) what you noticed
   in teacher's thoughts
- b) ≥ 1 clinical question
- Return in 3 minutes

# What you noticed (a)

• This ...

• That ...

# What you noticed (b)

One thing ...

And another ...

# What was missing?

# What was missing?

 Did the teacher identify the learner's questions?

 Did the teacher use the learner's questions in teaching?

## Isn't it all about me?

# Why don't we ...? (a)

Here's why ...

And also ...

# Why don't we ...? (b)

Another thing ...

Yet another ...

# FAQ: What if I don't know the answer to their questions?

#### **Emotions in Not Knowing**

Ready to	<u>Feeling</u>	<b>Behaviors</b>
Flee	Fear	Leave
		Invisible
Fight	Anger	Disrupt
		Undermine
Cry for help	Distress	Stop trying
		<b>Body stress</b>
Withdraw	Sadness	Inattention
		Detachment

#### What can teachers do ...?

#### What can teachers do ...?

- Acknowledge emotions of not knowing
- Minimize hidden curriculum
- Help learners build adaptive responses
  - Don't hide when you don't know
  - Use emotions to help pursue questions

 Point out the 'positive' emotions of learning and knowing ...

# **Emotions in Knowing**

- Satisfaction: Self image of "knower" meets reality of "knew this"
- Curiosity: the wind in the sails
- Joy: knowing and/or learning brings benefits to others
- "Zero gravity" or "flow": when learning engages the mind fully without self consciousness

#### FAQ: How do I recognize Q?

# What Qs Y'all See (a)

• This ...

• That ...

# What Qs Y'all See (b)

• This ...

• That ...

### 'Background' Questions

- About the disorder, test, treatment, etc.
- 2 components:
- a. Root\* + Verb: "What causes ..."
- b. Condition: "... cystic fibrosis?"
- \* Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

'RVC' = Root, Verb, Condition

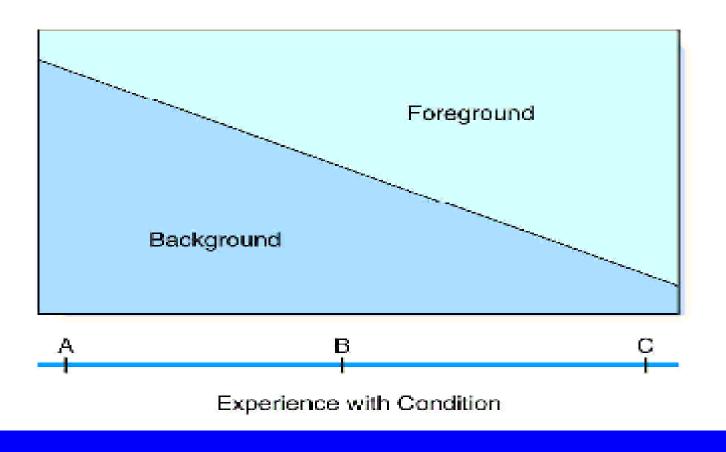
### 'Foreground' Questions

- About patient care decisions and actions
- 4 (or 3) components:
- a. patient, problem, or population
- b. intervention, exposure, or maneuver
- c. comparison (if relevant)
- d. clinical outcomes (including time horizon)

'PICO' = Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcomes

#### **Background & Foreground**

Figure 1.1 Background and foreground questions.



#### Recognizing Questions

- Listen with both ears
- Diagnose case and self/learner
- Compare to inner model how it should sound
- Notice your/learner's cognitive dissonance & other responses
- Both background & foreground

#### FAQ: How do I capture Q?

#### FAQ: How do I capture Q?

- "Unsaved Q = Unanswered Q"
- Use 'short hand': "S3 DxT HF"
- Capture:
  - Speak: into recorder
  - Write: prescriptions, 3x5, paper
  - Keyboard: computer, PDA, etc
- Or, use diagram or chart: 'P' 'l' 'C' 'O'
- Keep capture method close at hand

#### FAQ: How do I select Q?

# FAQ: Selecting Q

#### **Consider:**

- What is illness?
- What is role?
- What are learning needs?
- What are available resources?

#### Of these, select:

- Most urgent
- Most interesting
- Most feasible to answer
- Most likely to recur

#### FAQ: How do I coach Q?

#### FAQ: How do I coach Q?

- Try building up from 'raw' question to more complete anatomy (rather than tearing their efforts down)
- Consider 2 stages:
- "Sounds like you're asking a question about ... (therapy, prognosis, etc.)"
- "What would be the ... (missing anatomy) you would want to know?"

#### FAQ: How do I follow up Q?

#### FAQ: How do I follow up Q?

#### "Educational Prescription"

- What: Question, Search, Evidence, Appraise, and how to Apply
- How: structured summary, e.g. 'CAT'
- When: In time for decision ....
- Where: In settings where we decide ...
- Who: learners AND teacher

# FAQ: Why should I bother teaching with learners' questions?

# FAQ: Why Bother?

- Respect learners
- Relevant to clinical needs
- Relevant to learning needs
- Improve comprehension

- Plan searches
- Recognize answers
- Awaken curiosity
- Have some fun!

#### FAQ: "Got no time ..."

 Sorry, we don't have time to address this one ...

#### FAQ: "Got no time ..."

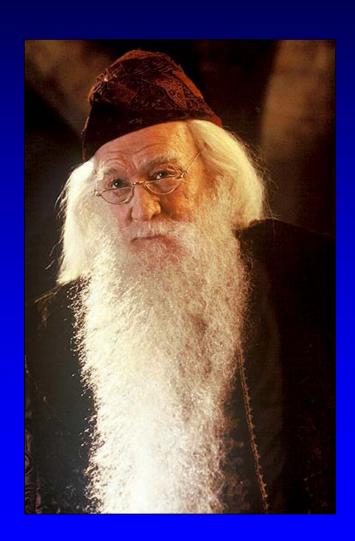
- Acknowledge real time limits
- Pick one thing to teach, anything, but NOT everything
- Get past misperception time is tight no matter whose question it is
- Takes gumption ...
- Just do it!

#### Have a 'Think-a-bout' ...

#### **Green 'Action Tool' Card**

- 1. Jot Down

  \*2-3 specific ways you could better address teaching with learner's questions
- 2. Use it to drive your daily work Periodically pull out to assess your progress



#### **Questions: Take 'Em Home**

- Believe Q's rule!
- Acknowledge emotions
- Recognize Q's
  - Background
  - Foreground
- Select Q wisely
- Coach there!



#### Your Questions about 'Q'?



# Thank You!

