

### Are the Medical Conferences on the Right Path?

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#### Expectations

- Updating our knowledge in office practices.
- To know the recent advances and achievements in the various fields of medicine.
- To have an idea of the ongoing researches and inputs are noted about their implications in daily practice.
- To participate in different workshops based on hands on training to update the skills in once area of interest.
- To form the guidelines on different common and uncommon burning issues by group discussions on evidence based medicine.
- International and National Conferences are attended by delegates from different parts of the world as well as from different parts of India which is a vast country with different disease patterns. So we come to know each other, share the experiences and it is a huge platform for unity among diversity.
- Besides scientific and technical aspects the bonhomie during the lunch or dinner breaks are real fun.

#### Pitfalls

- Too many conferences in almost all the weekends – people are confused which one to attend and which not.
- Not all the Teaching Institutes, Government and Corporate Hospitals approve grants to attend the conferences. Most of the conferences are organized with lots of pomp and grandeur in five star hotels. To meet up the huge registration fees, airfare and accommodation charges of multiple conferences doctors sometimes depend on pharmaceutical houses for sponsorships. This may have an indirect impact on the price hiking of their products.
- Often the Academicians engaged as whole timers in hospitals with no private practices are deprived.

- To accommodate large number of speakers or panelists, the talk time minimized. The speakers cannot get into the depth of the subject or discuss important issues in little detail, instead display the slides of power point presentation at a very high speed to finish the talk in time.
- The interaction time is minimized or escaped with the announcement that, “We are running behind the schedule, you can discuss with the speaker during tea break”.
- The stalls in the Exhibition areas are sometimes more crowded than the halls where a less renowned or young speaker is giving a unique talk, behind which there is lot of hard work.
- Multidisciplinary conferences are really “outstanding” conference!! In the post lunch sessions the halls are often empty as the delegates are busy in sightseeing with their family and friends.
- Comparatively the Chapter meets are more focused with faculties and delegates having real interest on the subject.

#### Conclusion

- There should be less number of conferences.
- Conference may be organized in Medical Colleges or Government Convention Centers to make it more economical for the junior doctors and postgraduate students.
- Topics may be limited with more panels so that there is in depth discussion with adequate participation from the audience to clear their doubts.
- The take home message should be very clear and conclusive.
- The lectures and power point presentations may be circulated in CD form or in the website so that audience can concentrate on the topic rather than clicking their cell phones.