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Presentator	Poster presentatie door: de Vries Robbé, P
Auteurs	de Vries Robbé, P. Stuyt, P.
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Abstract:

For 10 years at the University Medical centre Nijmegen a program has been carried out to teach medical students an explicit procedure to solve clinical problems. At first the procedure was developed for medical interns at the department of general internal medicine. When the curriculum was revised it was decided to introduce this Clinical Problem Analysis procedure to start from the first year and to continue this teaching into the internships. The procedure consists of several steps in a cycle that have to be carried out sequentially to solve a specific patient complaint. The procedure can be seen as a disease independent protocol. The first step is to decide if a finding is abnormal: we call this an activating finding. Activating findings are then grouped into problems, that for sure link these findings together into (a part of) a single disease process. For each problem hypotheses are generated and for each hypothesis tests have to be selected. In this way it is possible to ask for arguments for each decision that is suggested by the students. The CPA-procedure is given in figure 1. Examples of the workup will be given. The way of introducing several aspects of the procedure will be described and the experience of 10 years will be given. The development of a computer assisted teaching program will be presented elsewhere in this conference.