

# Can virtual reality tools help teach obstetrics and gynecology topics to medical students?

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Results from a trial published in the *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics* support the benefit of 3D virtual reality lessons to improve medical students' knowledge and understanding of complex topics in

obstetrics and gynecology.

For the study, 21 students took part in a 15-minute [virtual reality](#) learning environment (VRLE) experience on the stages of fetal development, and 20 students received a PowerPoint tutorial on the same topic.

Knowledge increased after both learning experiences, but it was only retained in the VRLE group at one-week follow up. Questionnaires completed by participants reflected a high degree of satisfaction with the VRLE tool compared with the traditional tutorial.

"Virtual reality learning tools hold potential to enhance [student learning](#) and are very well received by students," said corresponding author Fionnuala McAuliffe, MD, of University College Dublin National Maternity Hospital, in Ireland.

**More information:** Virtual reality learning: A randomized controlled trial assessing medical student knowledge of fetal development, *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics* (2023). [DOI: 10.1002/ijgo.14684](#)

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