

## **Effective Learning Through Concept Mapping**

Learning in medical school (and medical practice) requires the development of an understanding of patterns and relationships in order to be useful. Each step in learning involves combining what you already know with what you need to know. Understanding concept mapping and its contribution to learning in medical education can be seen by comparing it with standard outlining. First we compare the advantages and disadvantages of both learning methods and then we describe when and how to employ concept mapping as a learning tool.

### **Outlining is a standard way to organize information for presentation:**

- I. First item
- II. Second item
  - A. sub item
  - B. sub item
    1. sub-sub item
    2. sub-sub item
- III. Third item, etc.

### **What are the advantages of outlining to learning?**

- It is active learning; decisions must be made to construct the outline.
- It organizes information by grouping facts and concepts; learning is at a higher level than just memorization of facts.

### **What are the disadvantages of outlining to learning?**

**What are the advantages of concept mapping to learning?**

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## Constructing a concept map

- 1.