

ACS 2022 Surgeons and Engineers: A Dialogue on Surgical Simulation Meeting

Research Abstracts

Medical Student Confidence and Perceived Competence when Performing a Female Genitourinary Exam using Task Trainers and Specialized Standardized Patients

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Introduction: The female genitourinary exam (FGUE) is an essential component of a complete medical education for all future physicians. For many medical students, the intimate nature of the exam can be anxiety-provoking. The purpose of this study is to investigate what factors make students feel confident and competent when performing a FGUE. We anticipated that students would increase their confidence and perceived competence from OMS-I to OMS-II, would prefer the use of specialized standardized patients (SSPs) over task trainers, and that the results would vary by student demographics.

Methods: Hard copy surveys were provided to Rocky Vista University - College of Osteopathic Medicine classes of 2023 (OMS-I) and 2022 (OMS-II) pre- and post-intervention in the Spring semester of 2020 in Parker, CO. Guidelines on a complete FGUE and educational interventions including the use of task trainers and SSPs were provided by the Department of Primary Care and the Principals of Clinical Medicine courses II (OMS-I) and IV (OMS-II). Survey responses were evaluated via Generalized Linear Mixed Models for numeric responses, statistical modeling, and descriptive statistical analyses with SAS v.9.4.

Results: The results demonstrated that the OMS-I and OMS-II osteopathic medical students of racial and ethnic minorities rated themselves as more confident and had a higher perceived competence than Caucasian counterparts. Students felt that using SSPs alone was the best mode of learning the exam compared to either task trainers alone or the combination of task trainers and SSPs together, and students' current specialty of choice did not correlate with increased confidence or perceived competence.

Conclusions: The utility of these findings will help medical educators use methods that best prepare their students for becoming successful physicians capable of performing an effective FGUE.