



Exposing Japanese Medical Students to SPs

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Introduction

In the Japanese medical education system, students generally do not interact directly with patients. SPs are rarely used and communication skills are not emphasized. Our medical school has a reciprocal program where students and residents from Japanese medical schools are exposed to one week of medical school activities. We conducted a workshop to introduce communication skills with SPs, modeled after our first-year communications course.

Methods

Participants:

- Number – 10
- Experience - fourth-year medical students to senior residents

Intervention:

- Didactic session
 - open-ended questions
 - addressing emotions
- Group interview
 - interpersonal process recall
 - two SPs
 - hepatitis worried about partner exposure
 - breast cancer worried about death

Evaluation:

- Nine item survey
 - satisfaction
 - self assessment questionnaire.

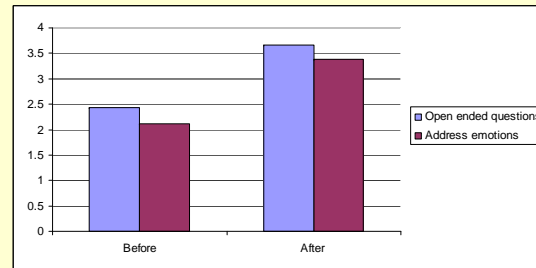
Results

Participant satisfaction (1 = not very, 7 = very helpful)

How helpful was the lecture in helping you learn communication skills?	6.78
How helpful was the SP exercise in helping you learn communication skills?	6.67



Before (and after) attending this class, how would you have rated your overall ability to ask open ended questions (address emotions)? (1 = poor, 5 = excellent)



Conclusions

- The workshop was well received and deemed valuable by all participants.
- Perceived ability to ask open-ended questions and to address emotion showed significant improvement.

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