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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open ended questions</th>
<th>Address emotions</th>
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<td>Before</td>
<td>After</td>
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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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