

PP-2. Medical students and pre-intern doctors views on clinical training methods

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INTRODUCTION: Medical training is under review in most medical schools. Techniques and skills acquired during training is adopted throughout the professional life of a doctor. Thus critical evaluation of these is likely to be beneficial in improving medical courses.

OBJECTIVE: To obtain the views of final year medical students and pre-intern doctors on clinical training methods used in teaching Internal Medicine in the undergraduate course.

METHODS: QUESTIONNAIRES were administered to Final Year medical students at the end of the professorial Medicine appointment and newly qualified doctors before commencing internship. They were anonymous and developed to evaluate the current clinical training methods. Respondents were asked about the value of clinical training methods and techniques learnt during undergraduate training (listed under results). Each respondent was asked to use a three-point scale of "very important", "fairly important" and "not important" when reporting on each subject. Results: 116 medical students and 38 doctors completed the Questionnaire with a response rate of 77.3% and 25.3% respectively. Their preferences are given in the tables below. *Table I.* Evaluation of clinical training methods and techniques used.

VI -very important, FI -fairly important, NI - not important

	Medical students (%) (n=116)			Pre-intern doctors (%)(n=38)		
	VI	FI	Ni	VI	FI	NI
Demonstration of physical signs	98.3	1.7	0.0	100	0.0	0.0
Ward round teaching	85.8	14.2	0.0	100	0.0	0.0
Clerking patients	90.5	9.5	0.0	97.4	2.6	0.0
Working as an "intern HO	83.6	14.4	0.0	71.1	21.1	7.9
Supervised observation iOPD	39.8	57.5	2.7	52.6	44.7	2.6
Case presentation & discussion	97.4	2.6	60.0	100	0.0	0.0
Mock short cases	96.6	3.4	0.0	100	0.0	0.0
Problem based learning units	88.5	10.6	0.9	94.7	5.3	0.0
Data interpretation	83.5	16.5	0.0	97.4	2.6	0.0
X-ray interpretation	76.7	23.3	0.0	97.4	2.6	0.0

CONCLUSIONS: Medical students and doctors seem to prefer most of the clinical training methods and techniques used. Both groups appear to consider supervised observation in out-patients not very useful. Although preferred by the medical students most doctors do not appear to consider shadowing the intern house officer an important exercise.