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47 Evidence-based Medicine: Is There a Better Journal Club Format?

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Background: The ability to practice evidence-based medicine is necessary to the practice of Emergency Medicine and is a skill set acquired during residency. Journal clubs have long been a venue for learning critical appraisal skills and understanding biostatistical concepts, but an ideal format has not been clearly established.

Objective: The objective was to determine if a new journal club format increased resident satisfaction and self-perceived ability to interpret the literature.

Methods: This was a retrospective observational study undertaken at a PGY1-3 emergency medicine residency program. In June 2011, journal club was changed from a one-hour session at the weekly academic conference to a 2-part journal club. This included a 30-minute biostatistical concept introduction at weekly academic conference followed by an evening journal club held at a faculty member's home. After 6 months, all residents were surveyed to evaluate perceived change in their ability to interpret medical literature, their satisfaction with the new format and their reasons for attending journal club.

Results: Of the 25 residents enrolled in the residency program, 100% chose to participate in the survey. Reported journal club attendance increased from n=17 to n=20. All of the residents who attended the new journal club format reported that they were either moderately or very satisfied, whereas only 20% (n=5) reported this for the old format. Residents reporting being moderately or very satisfied with their ability to interpret the medical literature increased from 32% (n=8) to 88% (n=22).

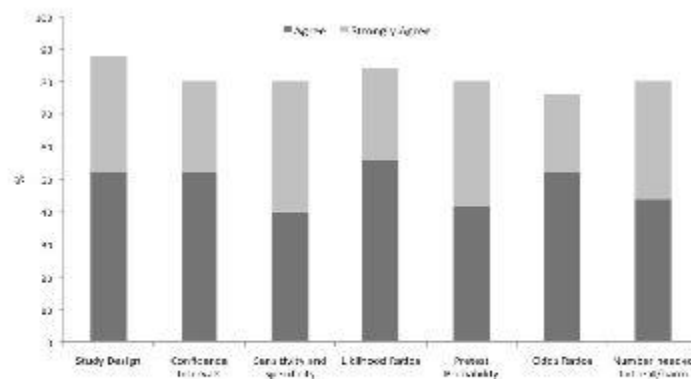


Figure 1. Resident's reported improved understanding of statistics concepts.

Conclusions: The implementation of a two-session biostatistical concept-based journal club format improved resident attendance, satisfaction and perceived ability to interpret the literature.

Table 1. Top 5 reasons for attendance.

	Responses (n)
Increased knowledge of biostatistical concepts	96% (24)
Social atmosphere	92% (23)
Increased ability to interpret the literature	68% (17)
Overall team building	44% (11)
Faculty-resident collaboration	32% (8)