Opportunities for pelvic examinations are becoming more rare in pediatric residency due to changing guidelines for PAP testing and STI screening.

Pelvic examination remains an important skill for pediatricians, whose adolescent patients make up a high-risk group for pelvic pathology.

Pelvic examination simulators may serve as valuable adjunctive educational tools for pediatric residency programs.

Use of a pelvic simulator may improve perceived competence with this skill curriculum improved perceived resident competence with pelvic examination and commented simulation felt that it a worthwhile learning tool.

Residents responded as to whether the pelvic exam.

Residents felt the simulator improved their comfort level with the pelvic exam and considered it a worthwhile learning tool.

Results are comparable to similar studies conducted with internal medicine and gynecology residents, which examined the use of a simulation program in improving resident comfort with the pelvic exam.

Pelvic examination simulator in clinical skills education amongst pediatric residents

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Objectives

Evaluate the comfort and perceived competence of a group of pediatric residents in performing pelvic exams

Determine whether use of a pelvic simulator as part of a clinical skills day curriculum improved perceived resident competence with this skill

Methods

Subjects

27 out of 42 eligible residents responded to the questionnaire and 17 residents performed the clinical skills station.

Survey Design

After completion of the simulator station, a post-test survey was distributed which assessed residents’ previous experience and perceived competence with pelvic examination techniques.

Residents responded as to whether the simulator changed their overall comfort with pelvic examination and commented on its value as a clinical education tool.

SIMulator Station

Supervised by an Adolescent Medicine Specialist.

External genital exams as well as standard steps for female pelvic examination were reviewed.

Participating residents performed a speculum and bimanual examination using the pelvic simulator.

Percentage

Men

Women

Year of Residency

PGY1

PGY2

PGY3

PGY4

Overall

Performance of pelvic exam in residency

0 (0.0)

1 (20.0)

3 (42.9)

1 (33.3)

5 (19.2)

Performance of female external exam

4 (36.4)

2 (40.0)

2 (28.6)

1 (33.3)

9 (34.6)

Performance of male external exam

9 (34.6)

17 (65.4)

Impact of pelvic simulator on comfort level with pelvic exam

- Roughly 70% of pediatric residents felt more comfortable with the pelvic exam following the simulator activity

- 94% of residents participating in the simulation felt that it was a worthwhile clinical learning tool

Discussion

Pelvic examination remains a competency required by the licensing board upon successful completion of pediatric training.

Few pediatric residents had performed a pelvic exam during pediatric residency.

Most residents felt the simulator improved their comfort level with the pelvic exam and considered it a worthwhile learning tool.

Results are comparable to similar studies conducted with internal medicine and gynecology residents, which examined the use of a simulation program in improving resident comfort with the pelvic exam.

Conclusions

Most pediatric residents are not comfortable with pelvic examinations and have few opportunities to practice this skill during residency.

Use of a pelvic simulator may offer a worthwhile learning experience to improve on these skills.

Further studies are required to assess the usefulness of a pelvic simulator as part of a clinical skills curriculum, with resident competence evaluated through objective measures such as OSCE stations or performance reviews.

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