

Trauma-Informed Care in Pediatrics: An Interactive Module for Clerkship Students

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Background

- Individuals are more likely than not to have at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE)¹
- Using a **trauma-informed lens** can prevent the use of language, behaviors, and procedures that may inadvertently re-traumatize patients

Objectives

Create a session for clerkship students to be able to:

1. Explain significance of CDC-Kaiser ACE Study
2. Recognize broad definition of trauma
3. Describe lasting effects of trauma on the body
4. Counsel caregivers about positive parenting
5. Conduct role-play patient interview

Hypothesis

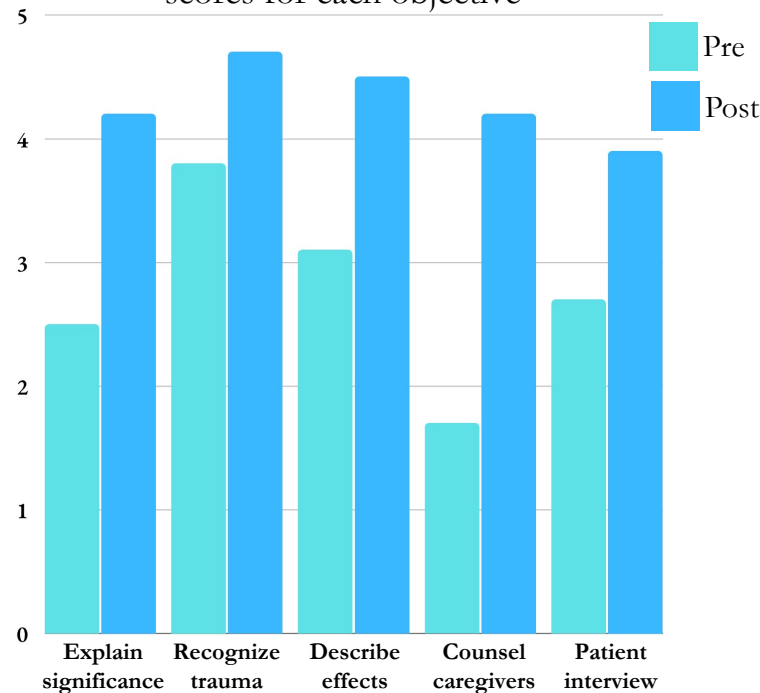
- Significant improvement in knowledge and confidence surrounding the 5 session objectives
- Principles learned will be **readily applicable** in a wide variety of clinical settings

Methods

- 1-hour session with didactics and role-playing
- **Pre- and post-session** quantitative surveys
 - 5 questions, each measured on a 5-point Likert scale with max score of 25
- **2-week post-session** qualitative survey

Results

Average pre- and post-session scores for each objective



Results (cont.)

- 36 students; 24 (67%) completed surveys
 - Pre-session total score= 13.8 ± 3.1
 - Post-session total score= 21.5 ± 1.8
- **Highly significant improvement** in students' knowledge and confidence in providing trauma-informed care ($t(24) = 12.3, p < 0.00001$)
- Qualitative comments described use of trauma-informed care principles in:
 - Primary care offices
 - Emergency department
 - Inpatient wards



Conclusions

Highly significant learning gains and rapid application of concepts in a breadth of settings speak to the **need and utility** of medical school curricula that address trauma-informed care.

Future Directions

1. Test longer-term retention and application
2. Create centralized teaching on trauma-informed care paired with clerkship-specific modules

References

¹Felitti VJ, et al. Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Am J Prev Med. 1998 May;14(4):245-58. doi: 10.1016/s0749-3797(98)00017-8.