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# Medical Student Perception of Morbidity and Mortality Conference

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# Background

- Morbidity and mortality (M&M) is a vital educational tool for medical students, residents, and staff.
- Discussion of noteworthy cases allows for learning and quality improvement
- Discrepancy between programs
- There are few data on how M&M is perceived by medical students



# Objectives

- To identify medical student perception of M&M conference as a learning tool
- To identify what factors of M&M conference correlate with a positive learning experience
- To identify what factors of M&M conference correlate with a negative learning experience



# Methods

- Ask a single medical school class to voluntarily complete a survey after surgical rotation
  - Students gave overall rating of M&M conference
  - Interest in surgery as a specialty
    - Univariate analysis performed for association with positive learning experience



# Methods

- Students asked to recall cases presented which involved surgical principles:
  - Medical error (preventable, non-preventable, multiple levels)
  - Non-therapeutic operation
  - Pre- or post-operative mismanagement
  - Patient safety
  - Quality improvement
  - Use of root-cause analysis
  - Never events



# Results

- 251 students were surveyed over four clinical sites
- 236 (94.0%) students felt they understood the purpose of M&M
- 233 (88.8%) students felt they understood quality improvement in medicine and surgery
- Only 136 (54.2%) students reported M&M was a valuable learning experience



# Results

Variable Discussed	Positive Experience N = 136	Negative Experience N = 115	P-Value
Examples of Patient Safety	127 (93.4%)	97 (84.3%)	0.02
Preventable Errors	124 (91.2%)	86 (75.4%)	<0.01
Non-preventable Errors	104 (76.5%)	63 (53.3%)	<0.01
Quality Improvement Issues	160 (95.6%)	82 (71.9%)	<0.01
Root Cause Analysis	81 (59.6%)	46 (40.4%)	<0.01
Non-therapeutic Operation	68 (50.0%)	33 (29.2%)	<0.01





# Results

Variable	Positive Experience N=136	Negative Experience N=115	P-value
Resident Grilling Session	43 (31.6%)	66 (51.4%)	<0.01
Interest in surgical sub- specialty	66 (48.5%)	46 (40.0%)	0.29



# Conclusions

- A small majority of medical students view M&M as a positive learning experience.
- Recall of specific principles associated with positive learning experience
- Future directions include:
  - M&M conference focusing on structured concepts
  - Prospective studies incorporating a curriculum are warranted



# Thank you

- Questions?

