

Patient and Physician Perceptions of Examination Room versus Traditional Presentations in a Resident Medicine Clinic

Daniel P. Dunham, John Butter, David Liss, Diane Wayne, Marianne Green and David Baker

Department of General Internal Medicine, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine. 675 N. St. Clair 18-200, Chicago, Il. 60611, USA

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ABSTRACT Goals in resident training ambulatory clinics include providing quality clinical care, research, and teaching. Achieving these goals is challenging. Our objective was to explore whether patients, resident and attending physicians preferred a conference or exam room presentation. In 2005-6, Resident case presentations alternated by month in and out of the company of patients. Physicians and patients completed questionnaires after visits in a General Internal Medicine clinic at Northwestern University's Medical School. 288/360(80%) patient, 296/360(82%) resident, and 306/360(85%) attending questionnaires were completed. All patient questions regarding their attending favored the exam room presentation ($p=.004$ by sign test). Patients felt attending physicians spent the right amount of time with them ($p=.039$), residents felt less comfortable ($p=.008$), attending physicians felt patients were more likely to receive excellent care ($p=.001$), and residents learned more ($p<.001$) with exam room presentations. Patients and attending physicians preferred exam room presentations while resident physicians did not.