

A Pilot Study Implementing a Physical Diagnosis Curriculum: Do Residents Benefit from Teaching Sessions?

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Background

- Our IM residency program does not formally teach physical examination (PE) skills
- Prior studies show deficits in basic PE skills for all levels of residency training
- Improving performance is important

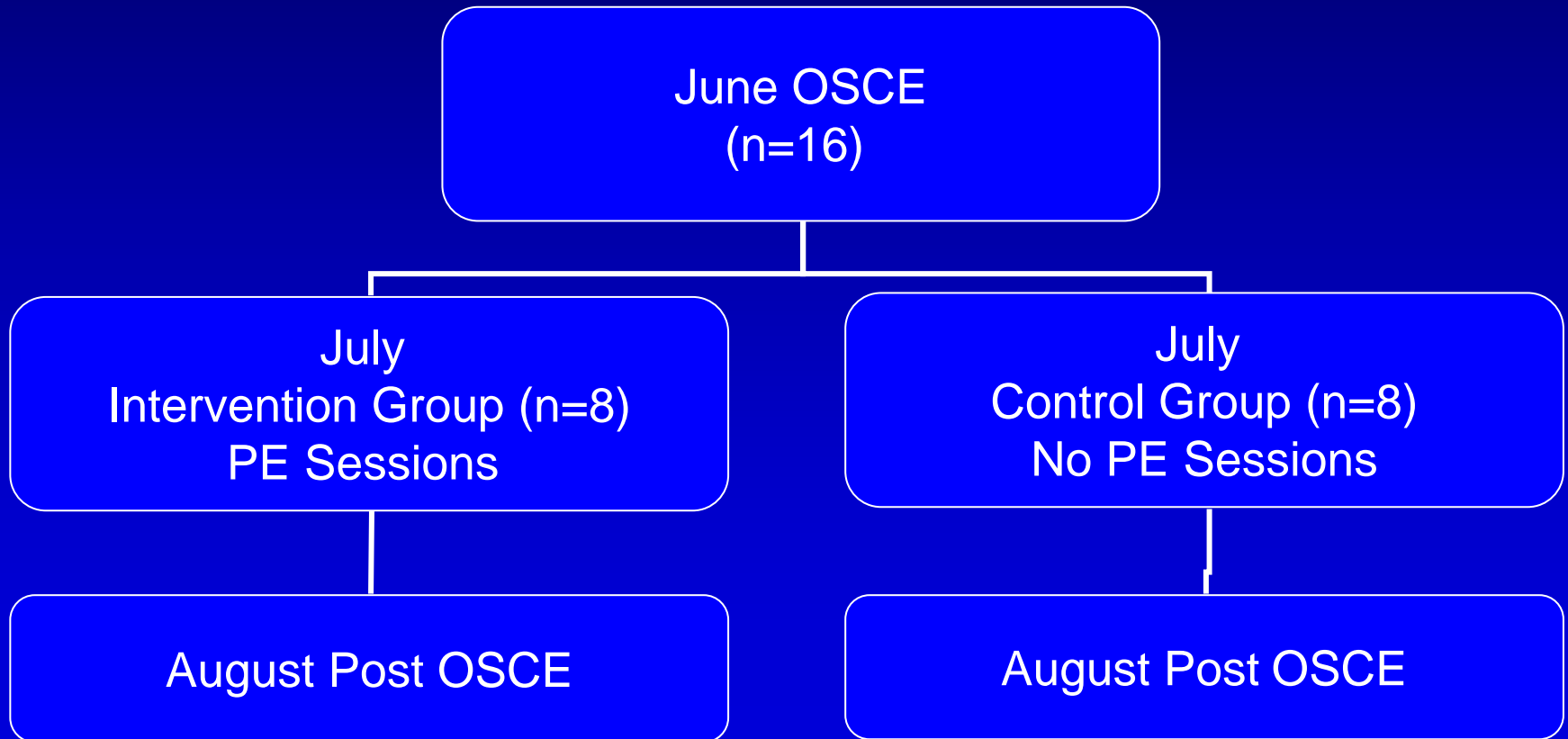
Study Aim

- To determine whether a structured PE course improved the PE skills of interns

Methods (sample)

- Study design:
- Setting / participants:
- Inclusion / exclusion / dates:
- [Intervention, survey content, etc.]
- Outcome / Dependent variables:
- Independent variables:
- Analysis:

Study Design



Methods: Intervention

- Four 30 min bedside teaching sessions
 - Week 1 = Pulmonary
 - Week 2 = Abdomen
 - Week 3 = Cardiovascular
 - Week 4 = Musculoskeletal
- Focus: correct basic PE techniques

Methods: OSCE Stations

- Pneumonia
- Congestive heart failure (CHF)
- Ascites
- Shoulder pain
- Back pain

Methods

- Experienced standardized patients (SP) trained by protocol
- SP scored residents' performance with task specific binary checklists
- Non parametric statistics*

*Mann-Whitney U test

Example: Shoulder Station

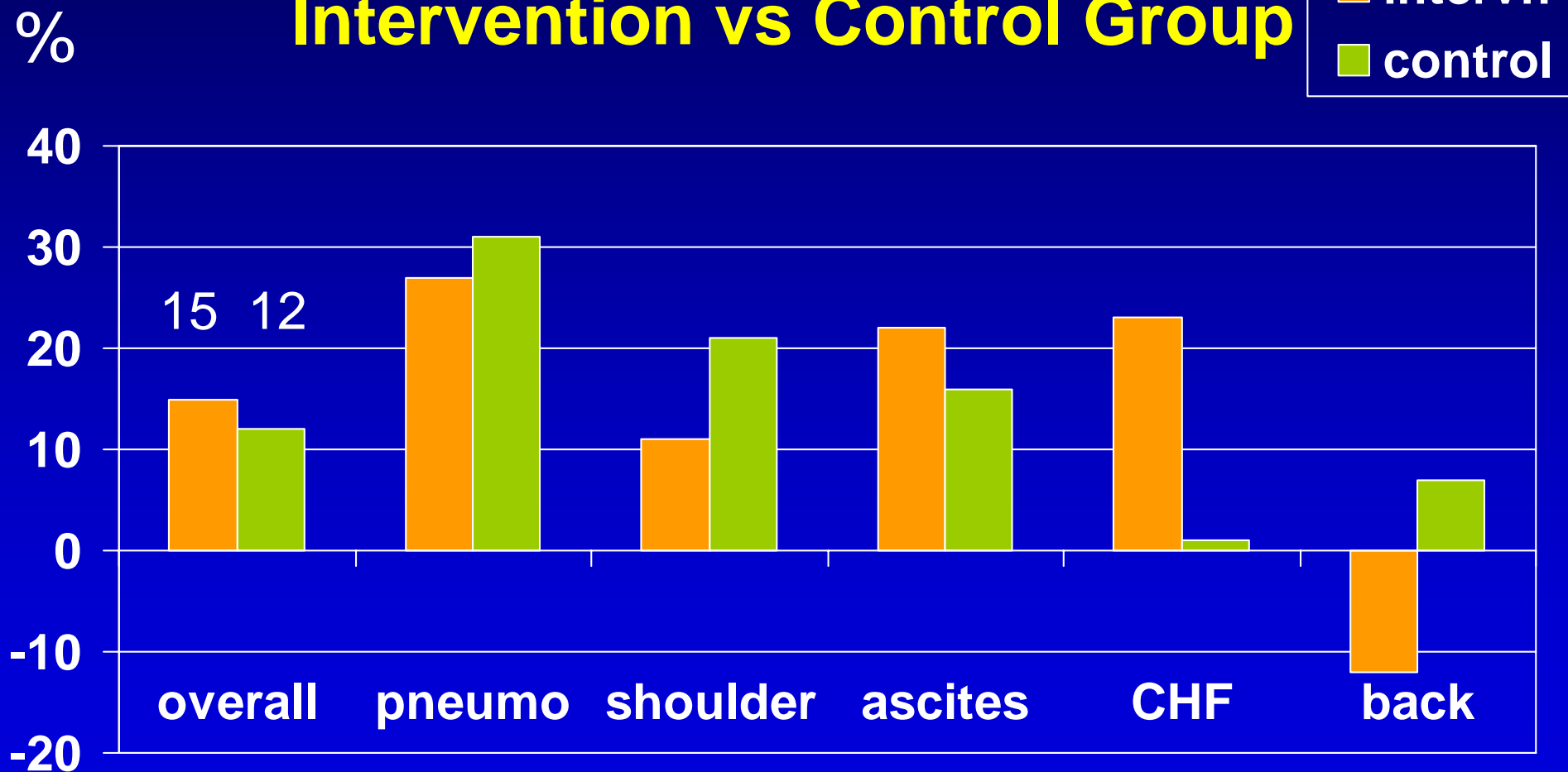
- Scenario
 - 27 year old healthy patient presents with severe right shoulder pain after weekend painting.
- Task
 - “Perform a focused physical examination to evaluate the shoulder pain.”

Example: Shoulder Checklist

- Inspection
 - neck and/or range of motion (ROM)
 - both shoulders without gown
- Palpation
 - AC, bicipital groove, subacromial bursa
- ROM of shoulder
- Maneuvers
 - “can emptying sign,” “impingement sign”

Results: Change in Performance

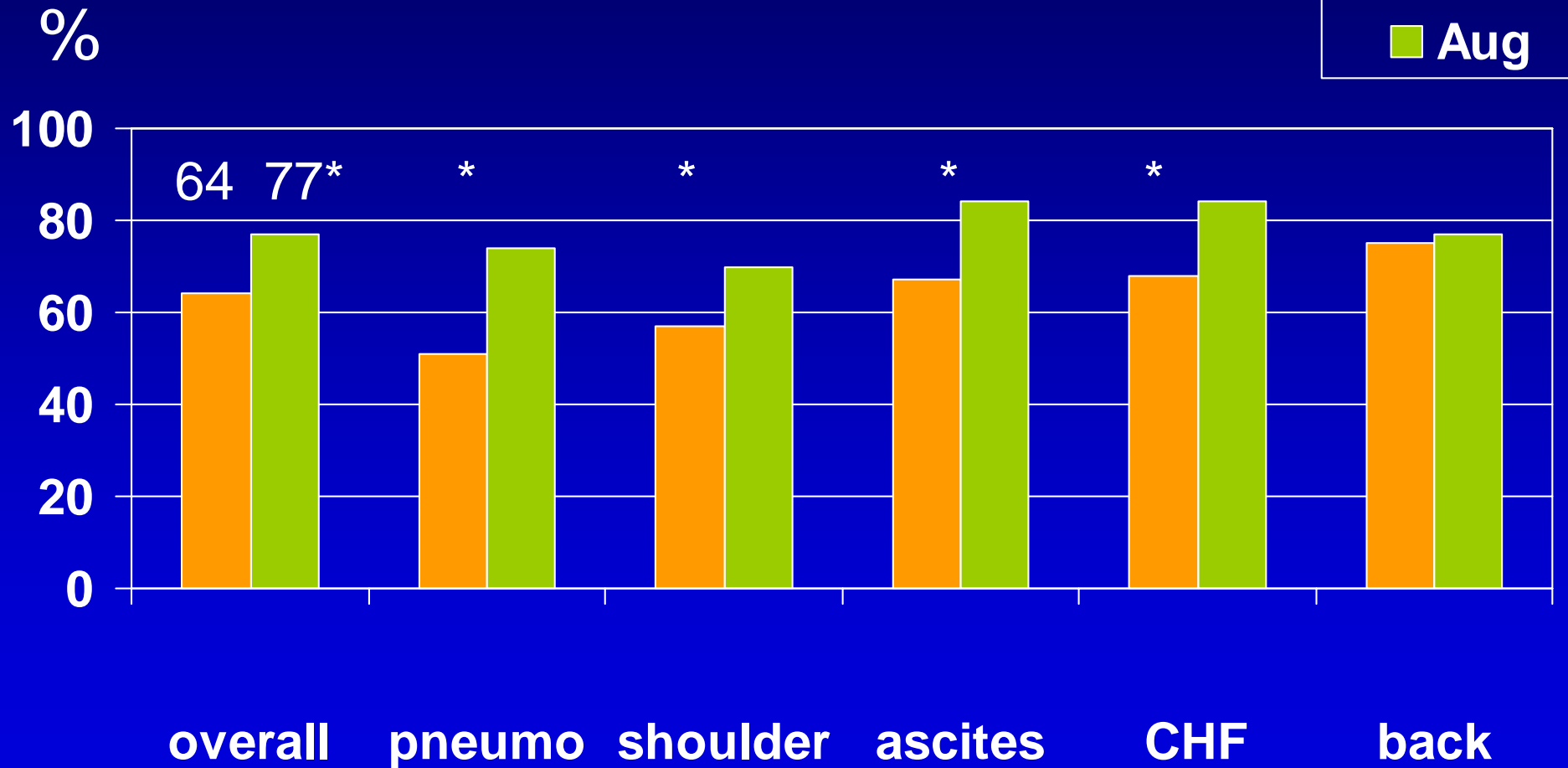
Intervention vs Control Group



P>0.05

Overall Trends in Performance

June vs. August OSCE Performance



*P<0.05

Limitations

- Sample size of interns
- Number of OSCE stations
- Brevity of intervention
- Accuracy of OSCE
- Effect of retesting

Conclusions

- Participation in a structured PE curriculum did not improve performance
- One month of inpatient general medicine wards did improve performance
 - Improved most on cases in hospitalized patients (pneumonia, ascites, CHF)

Implications

- This early improvement in performance suggests interns acquire skills rapidly upon exposure to clinical practice
- Methods to improve PE skills as residents progress in training need further study



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