Are we missing something? What are medical students missing out on, and why, when they are excluded from doctor patient encounters in general practice?
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Are we missing something?

Natasha Yates,
Jane Smith,
Reza Ajam,
Holly-Jayne Mellersh-Etherton

Statistical analysis by:
Schuyler and David Waynforth
A man presented to his GP
A medical student was on placement
He asked for consent to be in the consultation.
Unfortunately
the patient
deprecated
The doctor took a thorough history, and found out that he had left sided chest pain.
During her examination, the diagnosis became clear: he was suffering from a broken heart.
But what about the student??
Despondency

why did I get kicked out?
What am I missing out on?

I'm missing out on crucial le
He & the team decided to do something....

• Using technology and research

• “Are we missing something?” – game changing research project
What are medical students missing out on, and why, when they are excluded from doctor patient encounters in general practice?

MD Students Research project
• Reza Ajam &
• Holly-Jayne Mellersh-Etherton
Aims

• To identify gaps in the experiences of medical students who are asked to leave the room for a consultation, while on their GP placements

• MD students learn how to
  • apply for ethics approval
  • recruit participants
  • Analyse & interpret survey results
Methods

Participants:
• Bond University medical students in their 3rd and 5th years on their GP placements
• Recruited students complete a short survey each time they are excluded from a consultation

Survey (Qualtrics):
• quantitative data about the demographics of the student, GP, practice, patient, and consent process, topic of the consultation, and logistics surrounding the consultation

Analysis
• Stata cluster analysis, factor analysis & stepwise logistic regression
• StataCorp. 2017. Stata Statistical Software: Release 15. College Station, TX: StataCorp LLC.
Questions covered

• Gender: GP, student, & patient
• Age group patient: 0-12, 13-25, 25-50, >50yrs
• Consent asking: Where & Who; Was student present?
• Who asked you to leave; Why?
• Reason & length of consultation
• Waiting/lateness
• Cultural identifiers?
Patient age groups

- 26 to 50 year
- More than 50 years

Comparison | student excluded

Jane Smith AMEE 2018
Topic of consultation & consent
GENDER & CONSENT

Student

Patient

What do you identify your gender as?

No
Yes

Consent given

Female
Male

What is the patient's gender?

No
Yes

Consent given

Female
Male

Jane Smith AMEE 2018
Practice billing & consent

What billing policy does the practice have?

- Private billing only
- Mixed billing (but mainly privately bill)
- Mixed billing (but mainly bulk bill)
- Bulk billing

Consent given:
- No
- Yes

Frequency:
- 0
- 0.2
- 0.4
- 0.6
- 0.8
- 1

Jane Smith AMEE 2018
Consent and doctor running late

No
Yes

Consent given
Yes; more than 45 mins late
Yes; 30 - 45 mins late
Yes; 15-30 mins late
Yes; less than 15 mins late
No

Jane Smith AMEE 2018
Most of the time it was the GP who had asked me to leave despite the patients saying yeah it's ok. I guess........I did discuss with my other classmates and .....they were asked to leave as well when there was a check up related to STI. Regardless of the GP being male or female.

• Men’s health - possible STI

• the doctor seemed to be the one asking me to leave not the patient, the first time I have experienced this in regard to women’s health
EG of reasons

• Patient had depression and probably didn’t want me there
• Legal proceedings implicating the patient that involved a death of someone the patient knew
• GP knew patient wouldn’t want student present. Had done so on previous appointment
• Domestic violence - embarrassment/discomfort disclosing with stranger in room
Acknowledgements to:

• Schuyler & David Waynforth (statistical analysis)

References:

• Salisbury, K, Farmer, E, Vnuk, A Patients views on the training of medical students in Australian General Practice settings; Australian Family Physician vol 33 no.4 April 2004 p2813