A Curriculum Audit Using Student Curriculum Auditors (SCAs): Is injury Prevention Discussed In The Medical School Curriculum?

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

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Background

- Injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 25, exceeding all other causes combined
- No published reports regarding degree to which injury prevention is addressed within traditional M1-2 basic science courses

Purpose

- In M1-2 basic science courses, determine frequency of references/teaching re: Injury
  - ✓ Prevention: Preventing or reducing severity of injury (e.g., set belts) & response to injured patient
  - ✓ Control: Acute care & rehab of injured pt
- Identify which courses had highest frequency of explicit reference to injury prevention/control
- Assess student reaction to injury prevention/control in curriculum

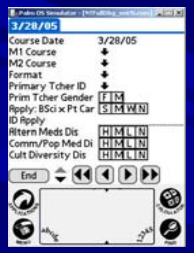
Methods

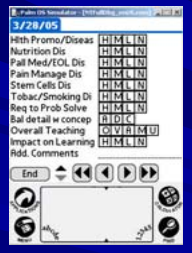
- Curriculum audit project for "key topics" in medical student education was approved by M1-M2 Course Directors (Winter 2002)
  - ✓ Includes injury prevention/control, genetics, geriatrics, diversity, EBM
- A PDA form designed using Pendragon™ forms; loaded onto a Palm-OS PDA
- Student focus group Spring 2005

Recruit and Train SCAs

- Student representative to Curriculum Committee recruited 6 students (3/class) as *Student Curriculum Auditors* (SCAs)

- PDA's were distributed to SCAs and form reviewed in group session with emphasis on:
  - ✓ Project purpose & intended data use
  - ✓ What counts for "inclusion" of topic
- One form (42 inquiries) completed per class session focused on inclusion of injury, geriatrics, genetics, course links, session format, etc.





- Form completed by SCAs at end of each class session in < 2-4 min and downloaded weekly
- Synch via personal PC/network/WWW

Analysis

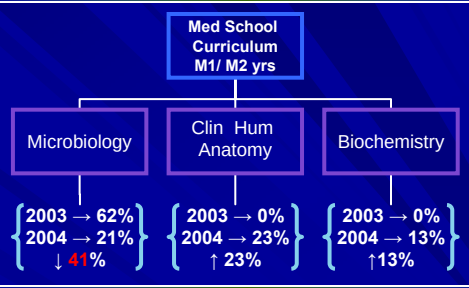
- *Access*™ database using specific queries associated with each purpose
- *Excel*™ spreadsheets to analyze and calculate sums and averages.
- Descriptive statistics performed using SPSS 11.5 for Windows™

Overall Results

- Fall 2003 Session Records: **(N = 116)**
- Fall 2004 Session Records: **(N = 136)**

Results: No significant change - % of sessions documenting injury control/ prevention

Variation Course by Yr



Results: SCAs Feedback

- Injury Inclusion: Very little distinction between injury control and injury prevention; Minimal references in courses; Surprised how relatively little clinical information we get in the M1 yr
- Form Use: Easy to use; Time to complete is minimal, unless adding comments
- PDA Forces Reflection: Forces me to think about the lecture & revisit/organize lecture notes

Lessons Learned

- Injury rarely discussed in M1-2 courses
- Identify key courses for integration of injury as key public health topic
- PDA forces SCA's to reflect on education