Longitudinal Effectiveness of a Four-Hour Interprofessional Education Session

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BACKGROUND

Methodology used to progress students toward IPEC core competencies are varied as are the outcomes.¹ A four-hour lecture- and lab-based interprofessional education (IPE) session was previously shown to be effective in improving physician assistant (PA) students' interprofessional socialization (IS) and perception of interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP).² However, the study lacked follow up assessments determining the intervention's long-term effectiveness and ability to counter the hidden curriculum that undermines successful implementation and uptake of IPE curricula^{3,4}, frequently encountered in the clinical settings.⁵

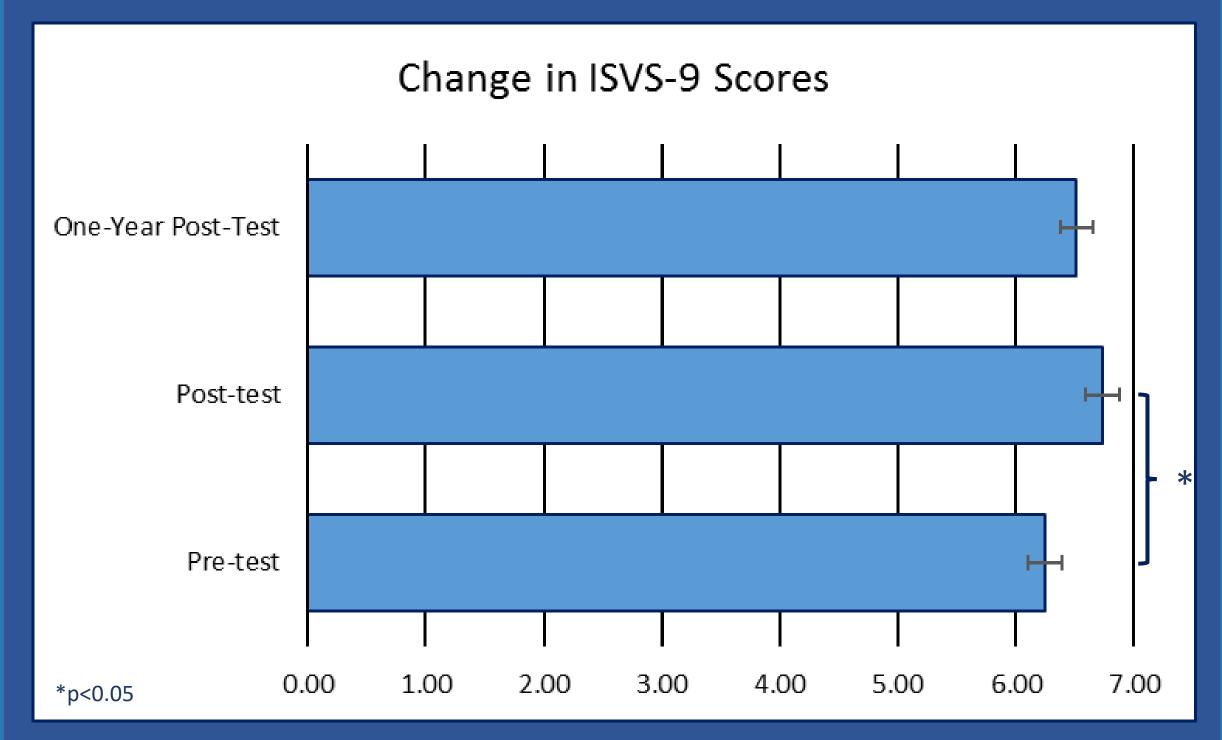


METHODS

This study is a one group repeated measures design using the Interprofessional Socialization and Valuing Scale-9 (ISVS-9).⁶ The previously applied intervention was two-fold: 1) an OT and PT faculty-led classroom discussion about IPE and IPCP, and 2) OT student-led labs intended to increase empathy and improve understanding of IPCP. The ISVS-9 data was collected as a pre-test and a post-test, immediately following the intervention (n=20). After one year, consisting primarily of clinical rotations, the ISVS-9 was reissued to the same cohort (n=16).

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics were calculated. A one-way repeated measures ANOVA was conducted and showed the significant effect of the intervention on PA students' IS and perception of IPCP, F(2,30)=3.44, p < 0.05. Post hoc comparisons using the Tukey HSD test indicated that mean pre-intervention ISVS-9 scores (6.25, SE=0.14) were significantly different than immediate post-intervention scores (6.74, SE=0.11, p<0.05), but not significantly different than one-year post scores (6.52, SE=0.15). There was no significant change between immediate and one-year post-intervention scores.



CONCLUSION

The results of this study suggest that the use of this 4-hour lecture- and lab-based IPE session improved PA students' IS and perception of IPCP both in the short- and long-term. However, the hidden curriculum may dampened the long-term effectiveness of the intervention. Though challenges exist in providing interprofessional practice opportunities for students,⁷ the benefits of introducing IPE early in the health professions curriculum with continue integration through clinical experiences offers an avenue to hit the Triple Aim.⁸⁻¹⁰

LESSONS LEARNED

Further exploration of interventions for use in the clinical environment to address the hidden curriculum should be explored, as this may impair successful IPCP.

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