

# Pelvic Exam Simulation for Medical Student Education

Palko Jill, Stetzer Bradley, Mercer Brian

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, MetroHealth Medical Center*

## **Abstract**

*Objective:* Determine if incorporating a pelvic exam simulation program into the 3rd year OB/GYN clerkship improves student anxiety levels, increases confidence and comfort levels in performing this exam over traditional education experience.

*Methods:* 45 third year Case Western Reserve University Medical Students rotating through their outpatient rotation of their OB/GYN clerkship were included in the study. Students were divided up into control group and simulation group determining their experiences on the rotation. Surveys were given at both beginning and end of the rotation to assess student anxiety levels, comfort and confidence levels in performing the female pelvic exam.

*Results:* Student comfort and confidence levels increased from pre to post rotation for both groups, as did student knowledge of anatomy and comfort in documenting exam findings. Anxiety levels decreased from pre to post rotation for both groups. Simulation did not show a statistically significant difference when compared to traditional education.

*Conclusion:* The students felt well-prepared for performing female pelvic exams from education prior to beginning their clerkship. Our numbers show that the students felt like their education during the clerkship was beneficial and we did not show that simulation superior to the traditional education experience.