

Title: Improving resident confidence in the in-office uterine aspiration procedure

Objective: The goal of this project is to assess resident comfort and confidence in performing uterine aspiration using manual vacuum aspirators (MVA) in the clinic setting. This project also serves to evaluate the effectiveness of procedural simulation.

Methods: Two voluntary, anonymous surveys were distributed before and after a procedural simulation on performing uterine aspiration using MVA. The five-question survey assessed resident competence and confidence in counseling for and performing uterine aspiration. A pre-simulation survey was obtained to assess baseline knowledge and comfort. A simulation was held where residents received hands-on training in uterine aspiration. A post-simulation survey was obtained to assess resident competence and confidence after training, as well as to assess the effectiveness of procedural simulation.

Results: Fifteen residents participated in the simulation and completed the surveys. After analyzing the results of the pre- vs post-simulation surveys, a significant increase in resident confidence was seen after simulation with a 35.7% confidence level at baseline and 85.3% confidence level after simulation, giving a 49.6% improvement in confidence with a t-score of <0.001 . When survey questions were analyzed individually, questions assessing procedural steps had the highest post-survey confidence, and questions assessing knowledge of contraindications and comfort with performing the procedure in the clinic setting had the lowest post-survey confidence.

Conclusion: This study revealed a lack of resident comfort and confidence with in-office uterine aspiration at our institution. Simulation was found to be an effective tool for improving resident procedural skills as there was high post-simulation confidence in the procedural steps. This study improves patient safety and outcomes as residents feel more confident in performing this procedure. Further resident experience is needed for continued comfort in performing this in the office setting.