

Introduction to Early Clinical Exposure of Second Year Undergraduate Dental Students in Classroom-Based Settings



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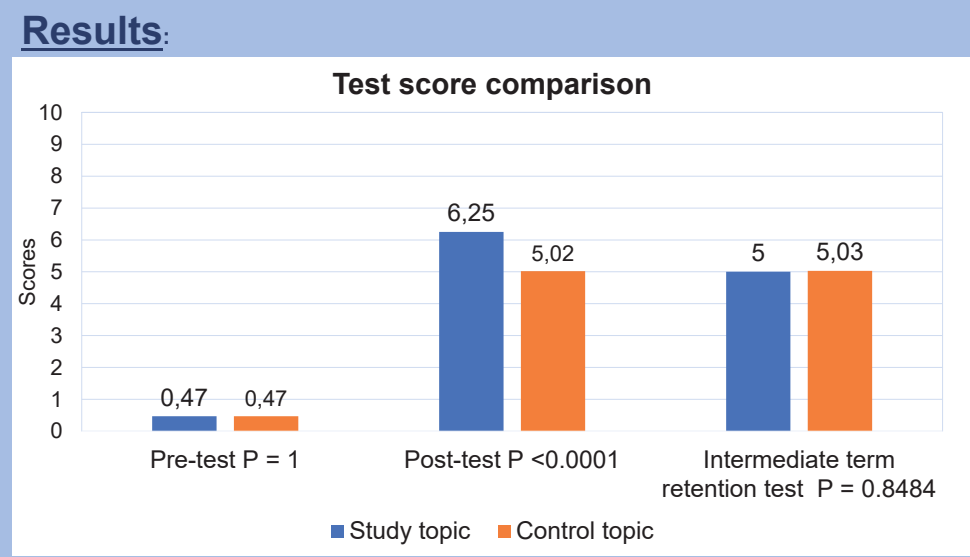
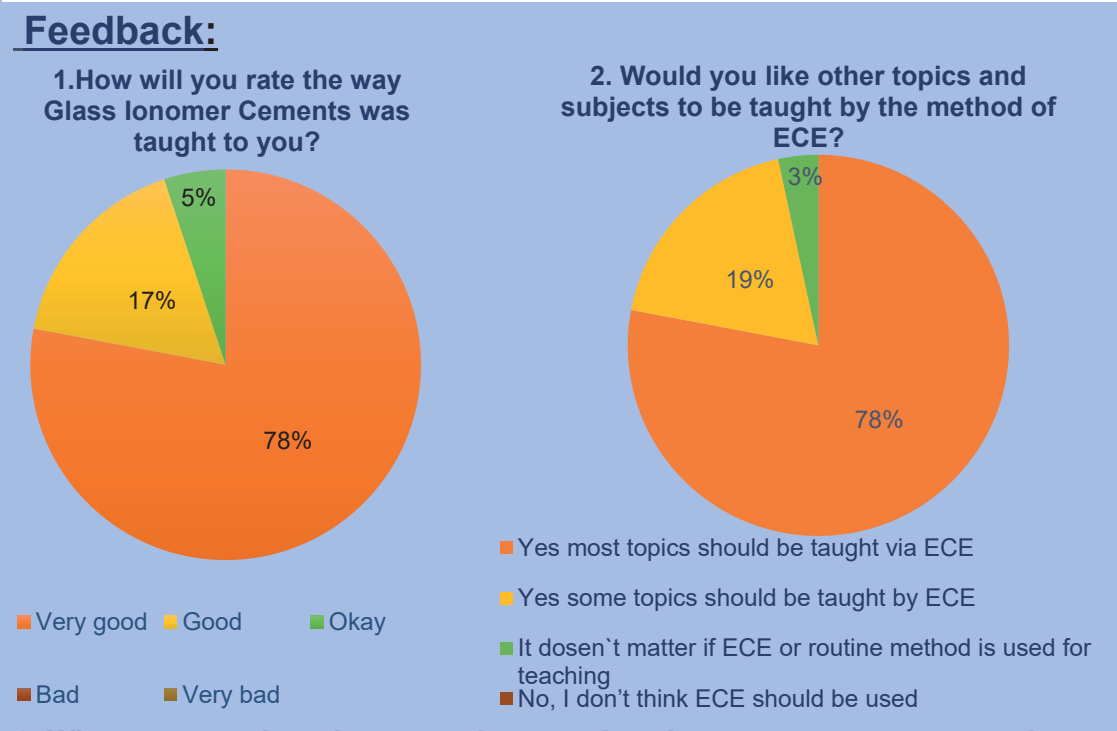
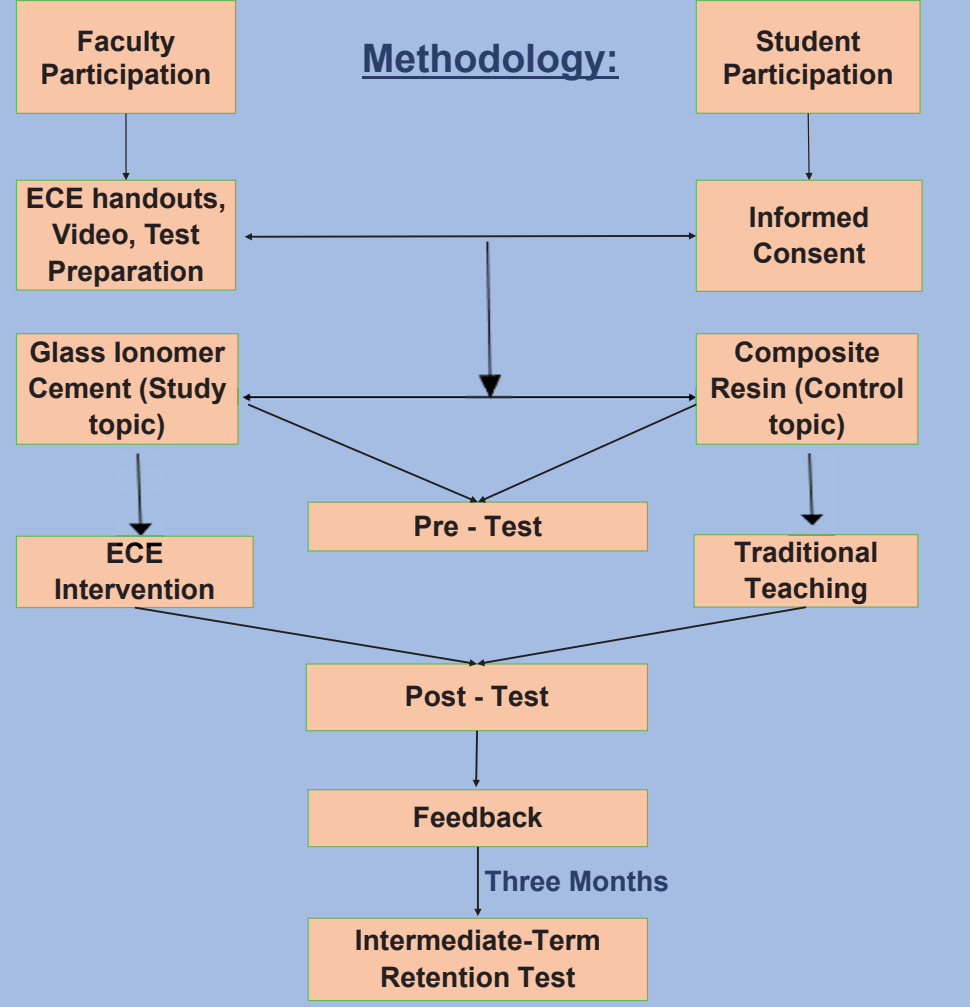
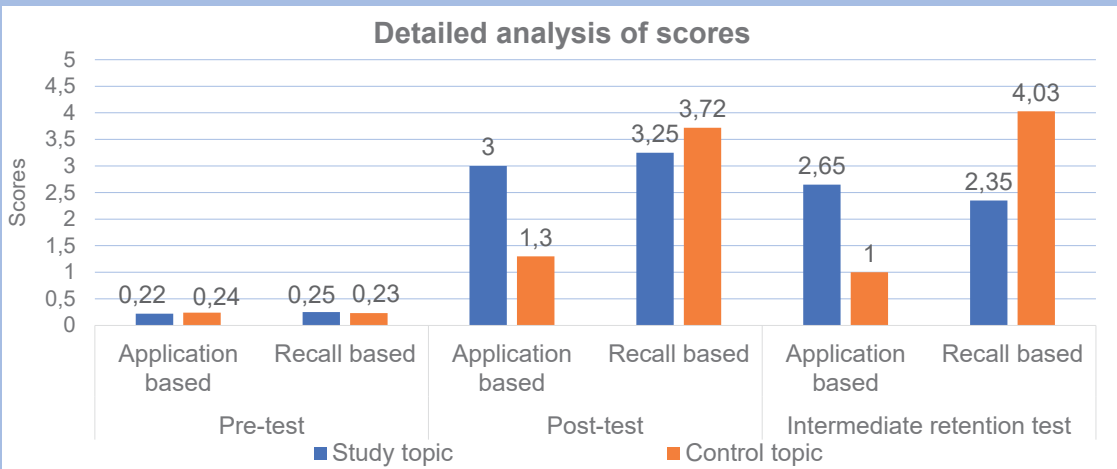
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Introduction: Early clinical exposure is basically “A teaching and learning methodology which fosters exposure of medical students to patients as early as the first year of medical college, in a social or clinical context that enhances learning of health, illness or disease, and the role of the health professional”.

The first real patient encounter for undergraduate dental students occurs in year three of the undergraduate dental curriculum. Dentistry by its very nature is very practical and even the pre-clinical subjects are directed towards the clinics.

The first two years of BDS are preclinical years in which the students are taught using didactic teaching methods, mainly lectures and in labs without any actual or simulated patient interactions. This results in a lack of clinical correlation to the subject being taught to them in the first and second years. Since there is lack of contextual correlation, it also affects the long-term and intermediate-term retention of the content.

- Specific Objectives:**
- Develop an early clinical exposure module in a classroom-based setting for one topic on the subject of dental material.
 - To implement early clinical exposure module for year-two students of the BDS.
 - To check if an improvement in contextual correlation to theory occurs by ECE intervention.
 - To check if any improvement in intermediate-term content retention occurs as a result of ECE.



Theme	Examples
There was integration of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I was able to relate what I saw with what we were told and what we read Clinical case video helped me to relate to the topic
Made the topic interesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory classes have never been so interesting I found it interesting because it made me understand the topic rather than to mug it up I found it interesting to see the things I have read in books
Motivation to know more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I want to read more about what I saw I would definitely look for more material on this topic
What was liked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was good It was very informative It was awesome

Conclusion:

- There was a statistically significant improvement in students’ contextual correlation to theory after the intervention, indicated by the higher average test scores in the study topic as compared to the control topic.
- Though there was no significant difference with respect to the content retention, indicated by similar scores in the intermediate-term retention test, the difference in the scores of application-based MCQ’s was significantly higher for the study topic. This indicated that even after three months the contextual correlation to theory remained etched in the students’ minds.

Acknowledgement:

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References:

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