

Utilizing Virtual Reality to Introduce Hospice and End-of-Life Approaches





Scan this QR Code to get access to this poster after the conference!

Introduction

in pharmacy curricula has been identified. 1.2 The use of a virtual reality experience (VRE) has been shown to increase students' understanding of and empathy for older adults

Sydney P. Springer, Pharm.D., MS, George P. Allen, Pharm.D.

We created a two-part palliative care series embedded into the $3^{\rm rd}$ professional year curriculum. Part one discussed perceptions of death and deprescribing at end-of-life (EOL). Part two used the Embodied Labs® VRE to follow a patient survey following completion of the VRE.

The objective of this study was to assess changes in

Table 1. Baseline Demographics

Category	N (%) N= 53
Sex Female Male Prefer not to say	37 (69.8) 14 (26.4) 2 (3.8)
Age 20-24 25-29 30-34 Prefer not to say	39 (73.6) 8 (15.1) 3 (5.7) 2 (3.8)
Place of Work* Community/retail pharmacy Hospital pharmacy Hospice or palliative care Long term care facility Mail order pharmacy Other None of the above	48 (90.6) 18 (34.0) 0 (0) 2 (3.8) 2 (3.8) 5 (9.4) 2 (3.8)
Prior Education* UNE pre-pharmacy program Other pre-pharmacy program Associates degree Bachelors degree Master's degree PhD Other health professional graduate degree	30 (56.6) 6 (11.3) 4 (7.5) 17 (32.1) 2 (3.8) 0 (0) 1 (1.9)
*Not mutually exclusive; UNE, University of New England	



Westbrook College of Health Professions, School of Pharmacy, University of New England, Portland, ME

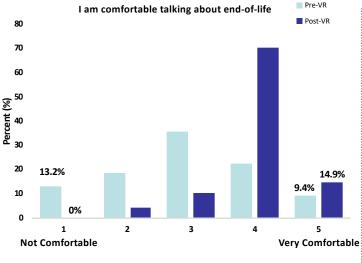
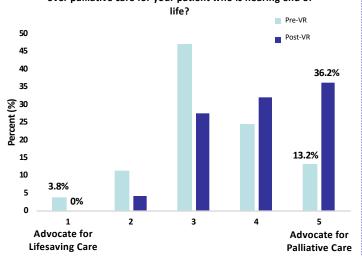


Figure 2. Pre- and post-results, advocating for lifesaving versus palliative care

How likely would you be to advocate for lifesaving treatments over palliative care for your patient who is nearing end of



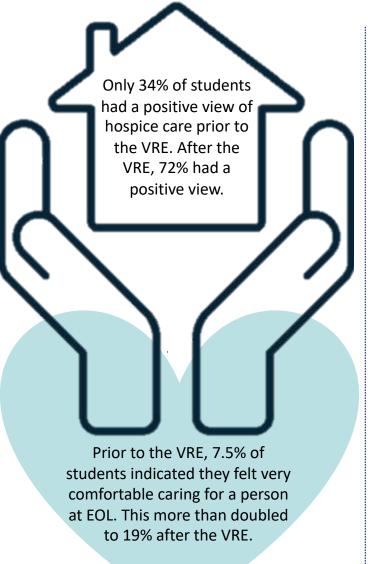


Figure 3. Words describing post-VRE thoughts and feelings



Conclusions and Next Steps

- The use of a hospice-focused VRE for patients at EOL.
- Hospice, palliative care, and death
- We will continue to incorporate VRE

References

- 1. Dickinson GE. End-of-life and palliative care education in US pharmacy schools. Am J Hosp Palliat Med 2012;30(6):532-5.
- 2. Pruskowski J. Patel R. Brazeau G. The need for palliative care in pharmacy education. Am J Pharm Educ 2019;83(5):7410.
- 3. Dyer E, Swartzlander BJ, Gugliucci MR. Using virtual reality in medical education to teach empathy. J Med Libr Assoc 2018;106 (4):498-500.