



Attending Physicians and Trainees Perception of Internal Medicine “Discovery Rounds”: A Pilot Study

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Background

Within internal medicine residency training programs, attending physician rounds are the predominant venue for trainee education and evaluation. Previous studies have described common rounding practices (bedside rounds, hallway rounds, and card-flipping rounds) and their perceived educational value. Discovery Rounds, which may be loosely defined as the physician care team’s simultaneous review of patient data, bedside visitation, and formulation of care plan, is an anecdotally common but minimally described practice whose perceived value for education, trainee evaluation, and patient care is unknown.

Study Design

Study Design:

Distributed an electronic survey with multiple-choice and free-response questions to 42 attending physicians, 96 residents, and 78 physician assistant (PA) and medical students at OHSU to understand their perception and experience with Discovery Rounds on internal medicine wards.

Aims:

- 1) Determine attending physicians and trainees’ level of experiences with Discovery Rounds
- 2) Determine the educational value of Discovery Rounds and their impact on patient care
- 3) Determine challenges associated with implementing Discovery Rounds

Inclusion Criteria:

Internal medicine attending physicians, internal medicine residents, medical students, and PA students who were on service on internal medicine wards at OHSU during 2022

Results

Table 1. Attending physicians and trainees’ experience with Discovery Rounds on internal medicine wards (measured in days)

	0 days	1-5 days	6-10 days	> 10 days	Total Participants	Response Rate
Attending (42)	2	16	4	7	29	69%
Residents (96)	2	14	7	3	26	27%
PA + Medical Students (78)	2	13	6	3	24	31%
All Participants	6	43	17	13	79	37%

Results Cont.

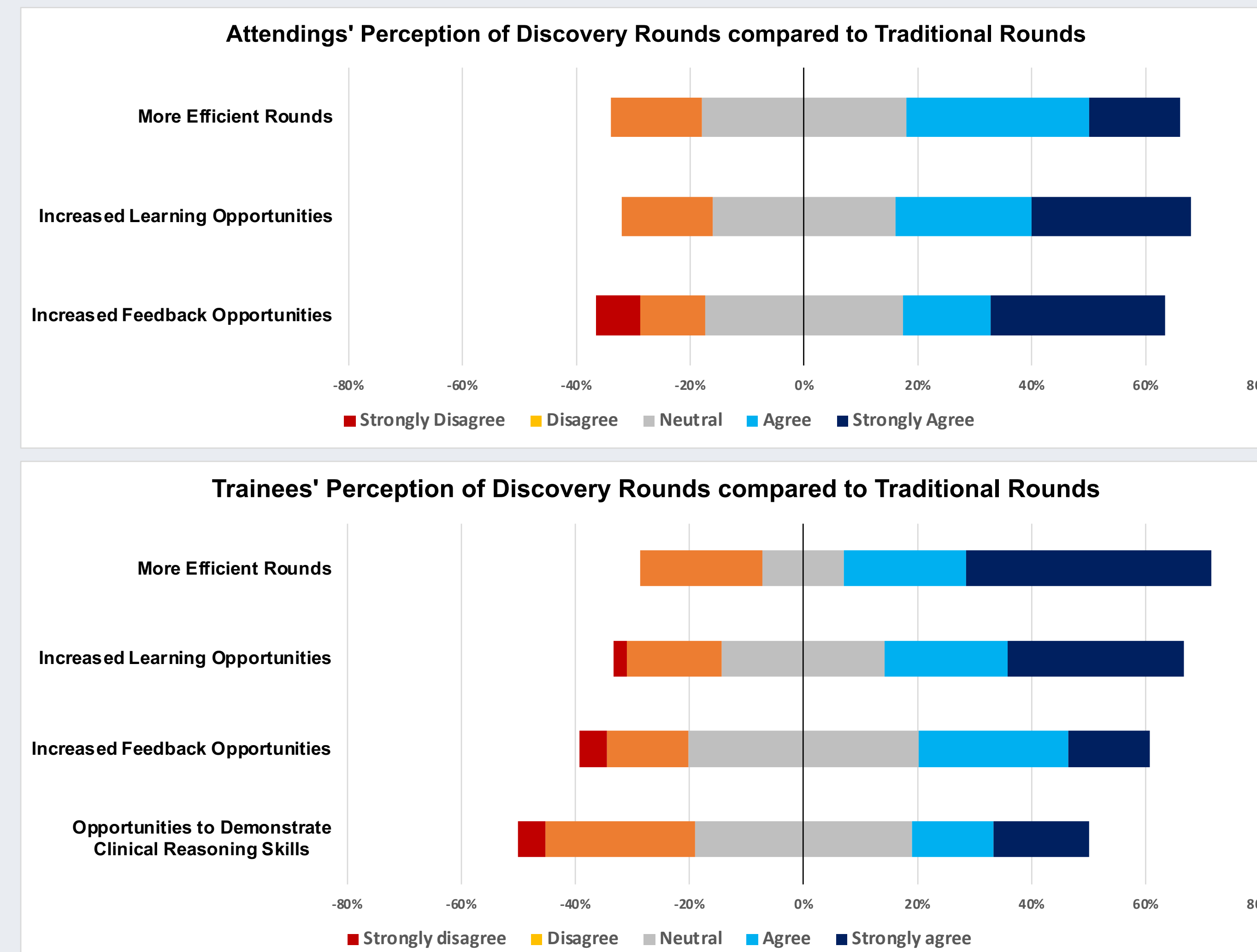


Figure 1. Perceived educational value of Discovery Rounds compared to traditional rounds grouped by attending physicians and trainees

Table 2. Advantages and challenges associated with Discovery Rounds grouped by undergraduate trainees (medical students and PA students), graduate trainees (residents), and attending physicians

Advantages	Status		
	Undergraduate (n=18)	Graduate (n=18)	Attending (n=22)
Efficient	10	13	14
Quality of Care			
Fewer patient disturbances	0	4	1
Clarity of plan	0	3	1
Education			
Team collaboration	5	1	1
Real-time feedback	4	1	5
Learning opportunities	2	4	6
On the spot clinical reasoning	0	4	6
Observation of soft skills	0	0	5

Challenges	Status		
	Undergraduate (n=18)	Graduate (n=18)	Attending (n=22)
Inefficient	4	5	8
Quality of care			
Lab results unavailable	0	4	2
Patients are seen later in shift	0	0	1
Education			
Insufficient time for clinical reasoning	10	4	13
Increased trainee anxiety	4	8	7
Loss of trainee autonomy	1	1	5
Loss of learning opportunities	2	1	0

Discussion

Discovery Rounds were generally perceived to...

- ... be more efficient; however, rounds could become inefficient and disorganized as the number of early trainees (PA students, medical students, and interns) increased. As a result, some attendings expressed selectively employing Discovery Rounds or using a hybrid rounding model depending upon the composition of the medicine team.
- ... allow greater opportunities to observe, provide feedback to, and teach trainees soft- and hard-clinical skills.
- ... allow senior residents greater opportunities to demonstrate their “in the moment” clinical reasoning skills, which both attendings and senior residents felt was an important component of professional development.
- ... be challenging for early trainees, as there was inadequate time for these learners to process new findings and demonstrate their clinical reasoning skills, which lead to loss of autonomy and ownership of patient care.
- ... increase anxiety for early trainees, as these learners felt unprepared during rounds and internal pressure to come up with a plan “on the spot” without the ability to rely on prior experience and “illness scripts”.
- ... improve patient care, as trainees more efficiently completed rounds and thus could perform other patient care duties earlier in the day.
- ... improve patient care, as patients were likely to have fewer disturbances throughout the day and a better understanding of both their treatment plan and who is a part of their primary medicine team.

Conclusion

Discovery Rounds is a viable rounding practice that appears to offer added educational value compared to common rounding practices. However, it may not be appropriate in all situations. Future work should further explore early learners’ experience with Discovery Rounds and attempt to understand the patient experience of being on a team that uses Discovery Rounds.

References

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