

Unlocking Knowledge: Escaping Traditional Boundaries in Physical Therapy Education

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Abstract

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Abstract

Objective: This abstract presents an innovative approach to medical education by integrating an escape room in a Physical Therapy seminar course focused on differential diagnosis and medical screening. The primary objective is to engage students in a dynamic learning experience that combines various aspects of patient care, including pharmacology, imaging, patient interview skills, and safety screening.

Background: Differential diagnosis is a critical skill in the field of physical therapy, requiring a comprehensive understanding of diverse medical conditions. Traditional teaching methods may lack the immersive approach needed for effective learning. The incorporation of escape rooms serves as a novel and experiential way to bridge this gap, providing students with a hands-on, scenario-based learning.

Instructional Methods and Materials Used: The escape room experience is designed to mirror clinical situations. Students collaborate in small groups, solving challenges that require the application of theoretical knowledge to solve practical problems. Narrated PowerPoint and faculty were guides in the escape room.

Educational outcomes to date: Preliminary qualitative assessments indicate a positive impact on students' engagement, critical thinking, and retention of course content. Participants demonstrate improved collaboration and a deeper understanding of the relevance of differential diagnosis.

Innovation's Strengths and Areas for Improvement: Strengths of the escape room approach include its ability to create a dynamic and memorable learning experience. Ongoing assessment is essential to measure the learning impact and refine the experience.

Feasibility of Maintaining Program and Transferability: The escape room model is feasible for integration into other physical therapy programs and healthcare education settings. The modular nature of the concept allows for adaptability to various curricula and learning environments, promoting widespread implementation.