



Assessing Resident Attitudes Towards a Rotation-Specific Study Guide for Pain Management

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Introduction

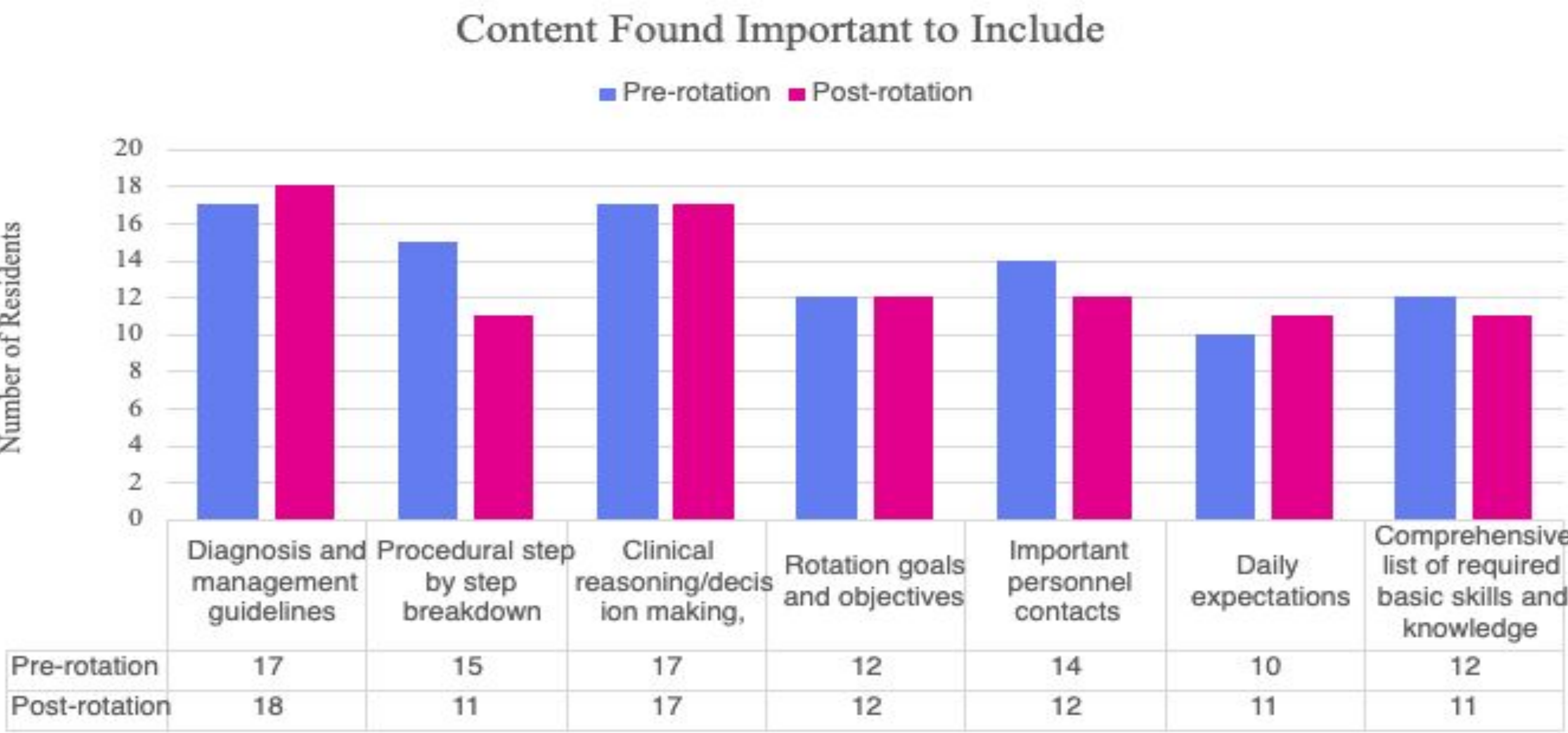
Subspecialty rotations like pain management are extremely challenging, especially since residents often report that communication regarding expectations or other useful information regarding subspecialty rotations is lacking. Given this, we hypothesize residents will find a chronic pain rotation guidebook advantageous. We planned to assess residents’ attitudes on the usefulness of a rotation guide before and after completing a pain management rotation, evaluating whether or not they felt one should be implemented, and if their feelings changed after the rotation.

Materials and Methods

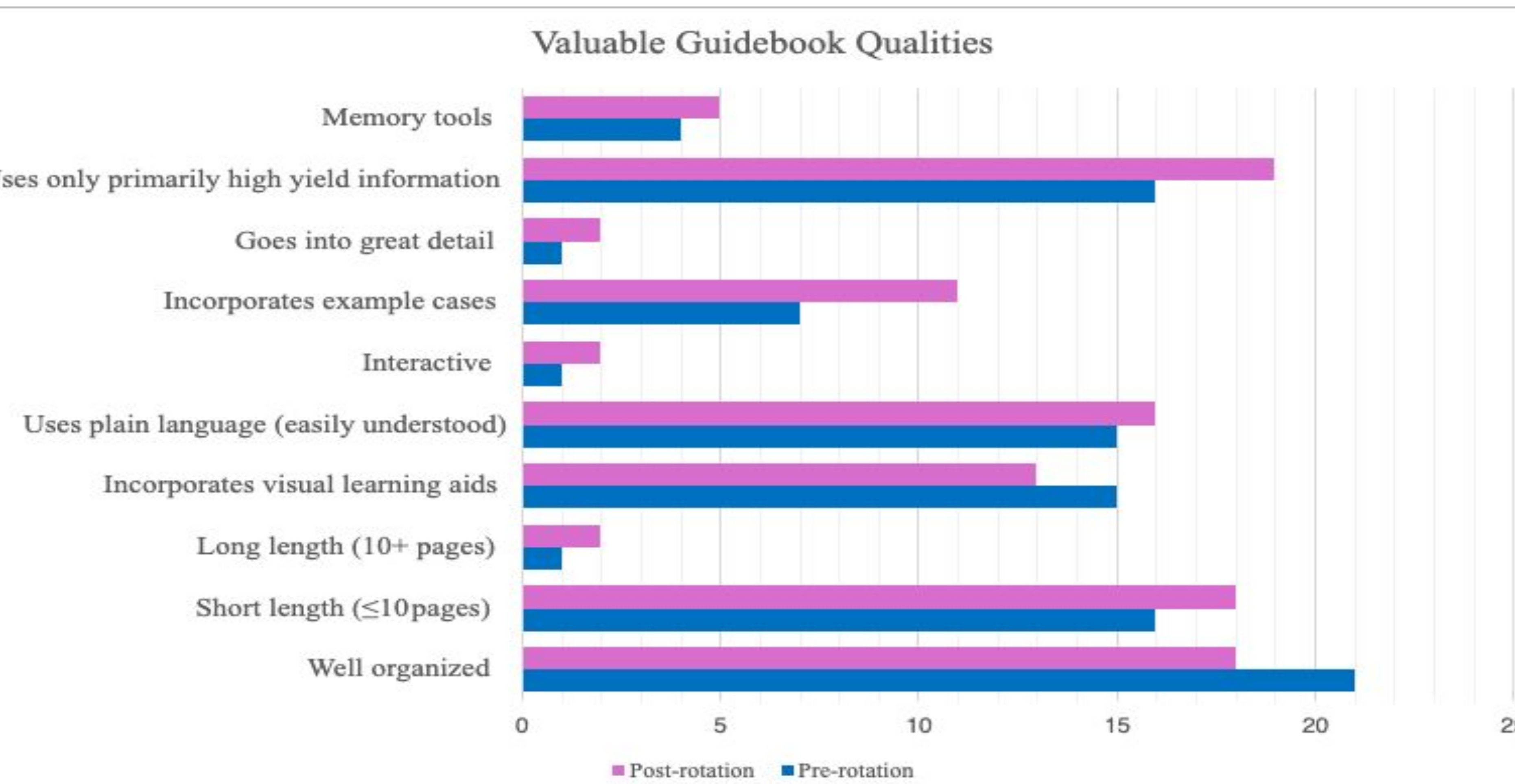
In a pre-post quasi-experimental design running from March to July of 2025, twenty 3rd and 4th year residents voluntarily filled out a survey before and after completing a pain management rotation. The survey asked residents to assess their level of readiness for the rotation, if being given a guidebook would change that, and what aspects of an informational guide they would find most beneficial. It also evaluated for likelihood of use throughout the rotation.

Results

All participants indicated interest in a study guide. 90% (18) reported they would be likely to use the guide at least every other day, with 55% (11) reporting projected use even if the guide lacked their preferred study tools. Residents considered “diagnosis management and guidelines” the most beneficial topic for inclusion, with “clinical reasoning/decision making” at a close second. In reference to visual aids, the top-rated feature was “charts, tables, and grids”(85%), followed by “graphics and illustrations” (75%) and “videos and animations” (75%).

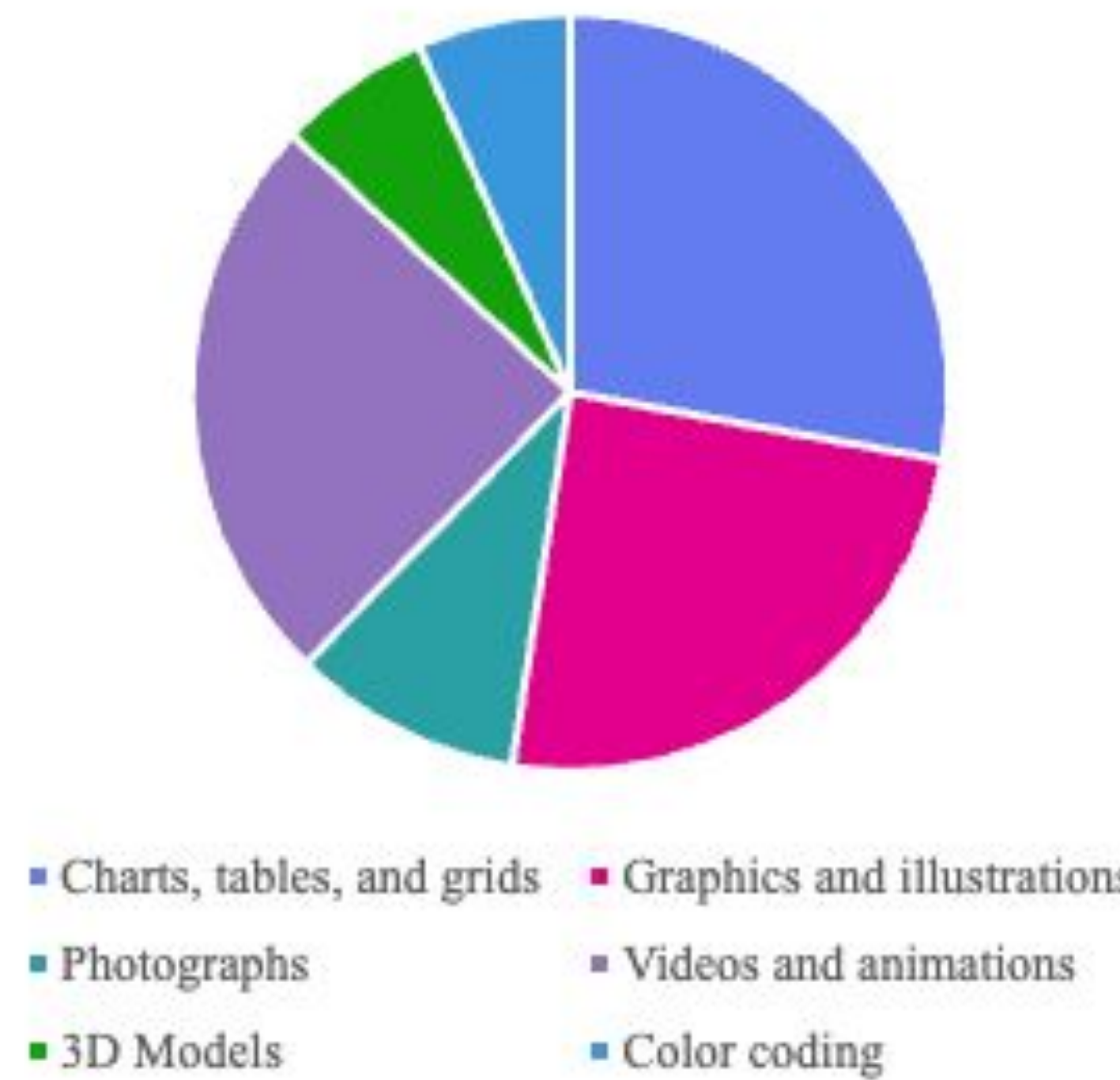


“Diagnosis and management guidelines” voted as the most important content for inclusion both pre and post-rotation, getting 85% and 90% respectively.



“Short length” and “High yield information” both gained more votes post-rotation as valuable guidebook qualities.

Most Popular Visual Tools



85% of residents voted for “Charts, tables, and grids” as the most preferred visual tool when studying.

Discussion

The findings confirm that residents have a positive attitude towards implementation of a standardized guidebook for pain management rotation. Most of them felt more strongly after completion of the rotation, indicating to us that residents realized in hindsight that a guidebook would have been beneficial to their performance. Additionally, with the vast majority indicating they would reference the guide at least every other day, we gathered that they regarded the guide as a pivotal resource. Information on preferred guidebook makeup was also gained, showing that residents felt including rotational objectives, sample cases, and keeping the length 20 pages or less would be most advantageous. Visual learning tools were particularly popular, highlighting the importance of visual learning on the residency level of medical training. Limitations included sample size and single institution investigation. We hope to motivate future emphasis on learning aids for post-graduate trainees.

References

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2. Ortiz M, Ottolini M, Agrawal D. *Written and Online Residency Guidebook to Improve Resident Efficiency and Knowledge of Best Patient Care Practices.* MedEdPORTAL. 2016.