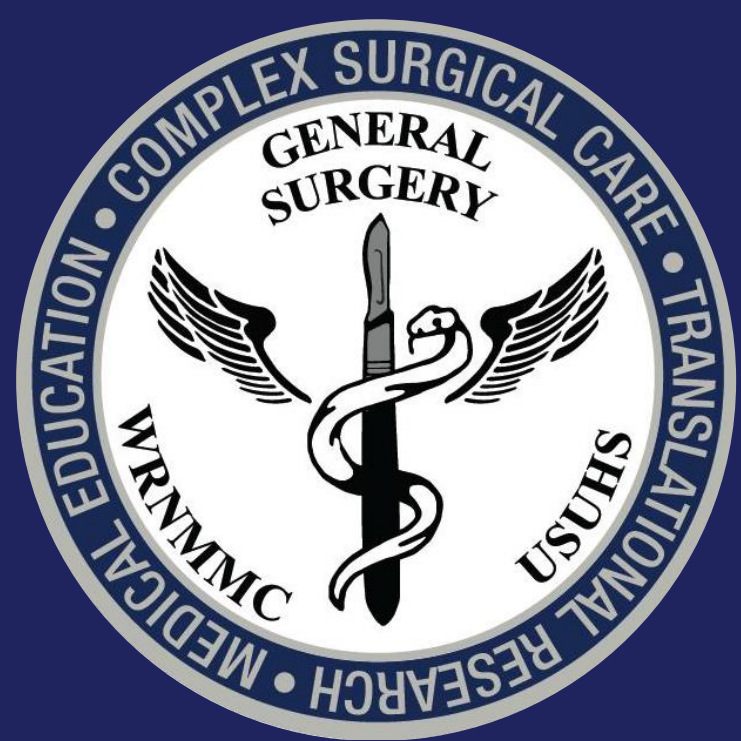




Gaps in Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) Evaluation: Limitations of SIMPL Use in a Single General Surgery Residency Program



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INTRODUCTION

- The American Board of Surgery (ABS) launched its Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) framework for General Surgery residency programs in July 2023
- SIMPL (System for Improving and Measuring Procedural Learning) mobile tool, allowing faculty to document performance, case complexity, feedback, and entrustment levels in real time.
- Prior studies show variability in EPA assessments, particularly across different phases of care.

METHODS

- Deidentified SIMPL evaluations reviewed from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- Evaluations were categorized by
 - Phase of care (non-operative/preoperative, intraoperative, postoperative)
 - Postgraduate year (PGY)
- Descriptive statistics were used to characterize evaluation patterns.

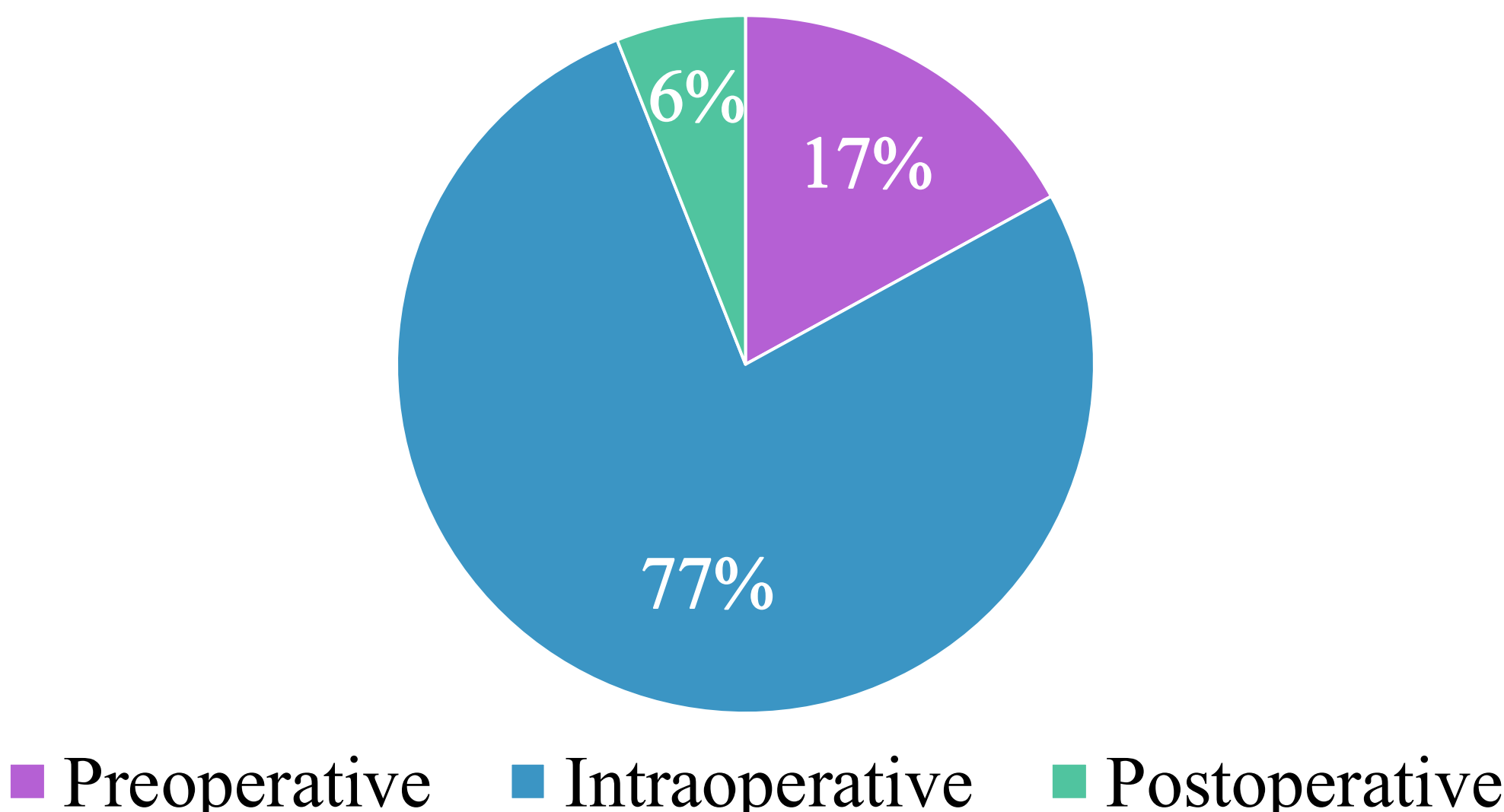
PURPOSE

Evaluate SIMPL assessments during the first year of implementation at a military residency program to identify gaps in EPA-aligned evaluation.

RESULTS

- 293 SIMPL evaluations collected
- 77% of evaluations occurred during the intraoperative phase
- PGY1 residents received the fewest evaluations (5.1%)
- 42% of rotations occurred outside the home institution but account for 14% of evaluations

Figure 1: Distribution of SIMPL evaluations by phase of care



RESULTS

Figure 2: SIMPL evaluations by PGY

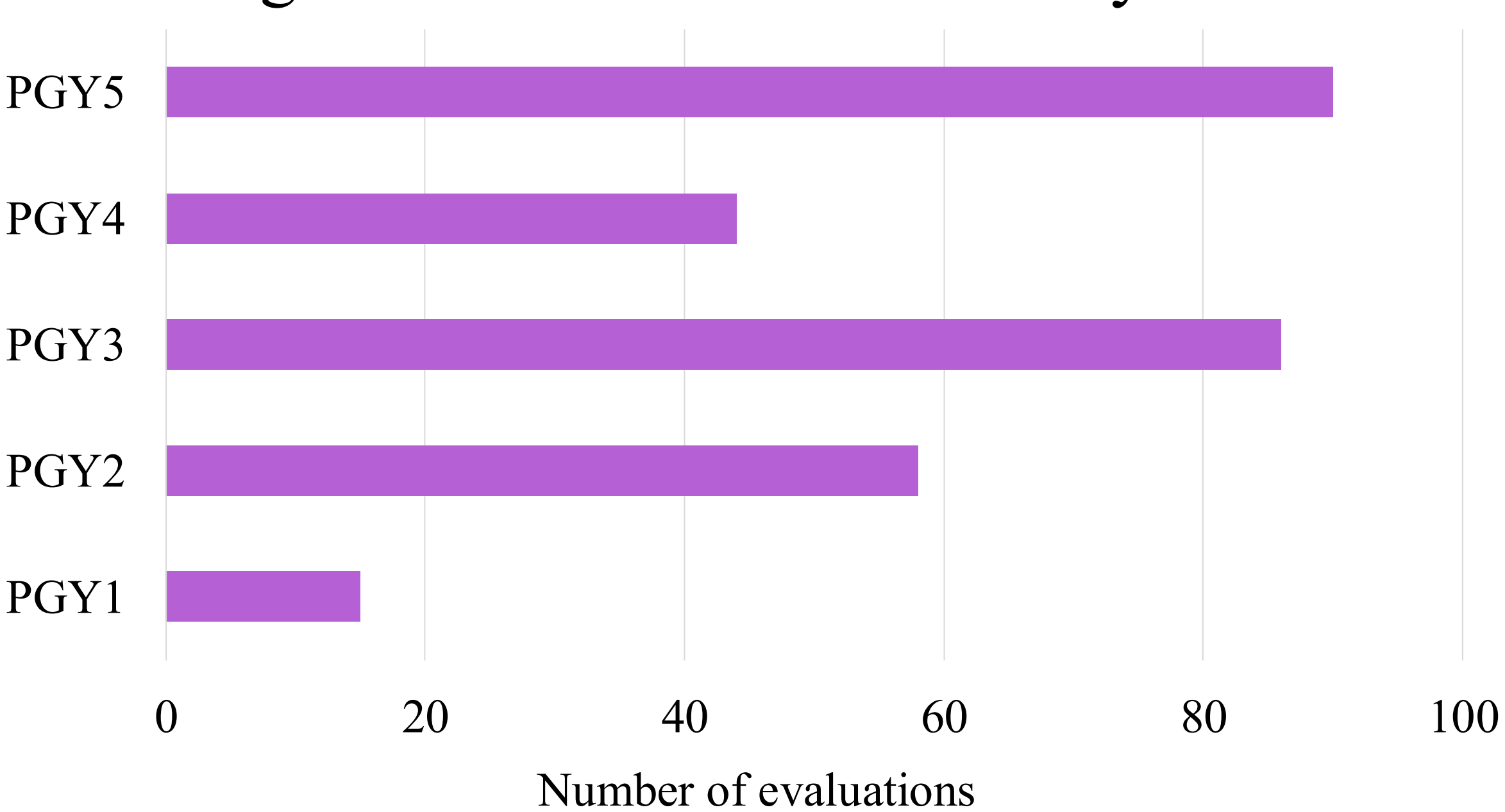


Figure 3: Proportion of evaluations occurring intraoperatively by PGY

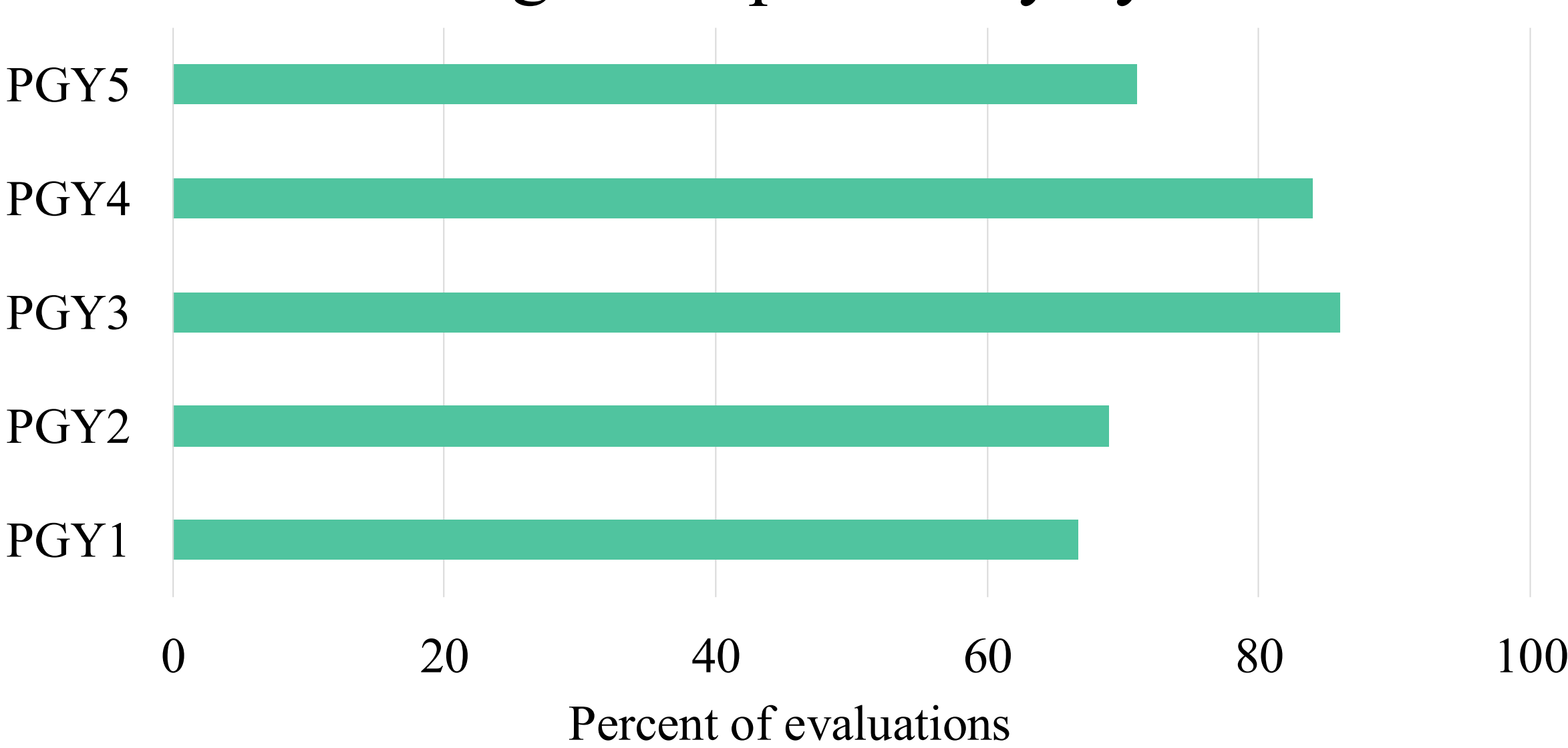
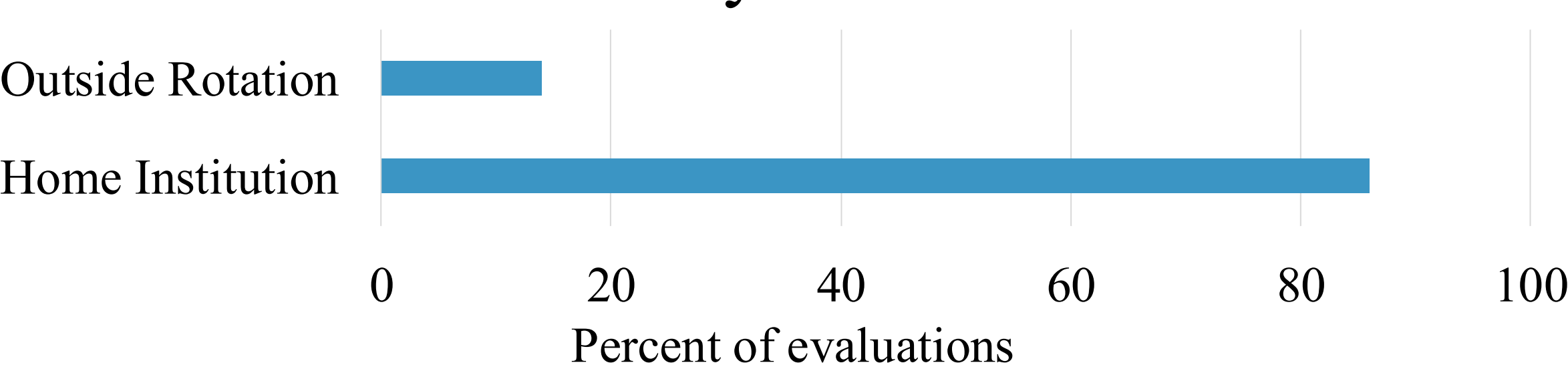


Figure 4: Distribution of evaluations by faculty location



DISCUSSION

- SIMPL evaluations were heavily skewed toward intraoperative performance.
- Interns received the fewest evaluations, despite being in a critical formative year for feedback.
- Preoperative and postoperative EPA assessments were underutilized, limiting comprehensive evaluation.
- Outside rotation faculty rarely completed SIMPL assessments, representing a missed feedback opportunity.

CONCLUSION

Both resident and faculty education are needed to encourage full use of the SIMPL app in all phases of care to ensure comprehensive evaluations within the EPA framework.

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