

Resident Independent Rounds: how do families perceive team communication?

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Background

- Resident independent rounds are family-centered rounds that are conducted without the attending physician.
- This is a model used by inpatient teaching teams to increase resident autonomy.
- Weekly resident independent rounds were implemented in July 2020 at our institution.
- Though educational benefits have been described, its impact on family perception of team communication has not been explored.

Objective

To compare family perception of team communication between resident independent rounds and traditional rounds at an academic children's hospital

Methods

- We conducted a 5-question paper survey using a 4-point Likert scale, modified from the Pediatric Inpatient Experience Survey, focusing on team communication during rounds (Figure 1).
- Surveys were administered 2 days/week to a convenience sample of families of children admitted to hospital medicine services from September to December 2020.

Additional Methods

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| <p>1. How effective was the communication today among your child's doctors about your child's condition?</p> <p>a. Not at all effective
b. Mildly effective
c. Moderately effective
d. Very effective</p> | <p>4. Overall, how well were you kept informed today about your child's condition, test results, and treatment?</p> <p>a. Not at all well
b. Mildly well
c. Moderately well
d. Very well</p> |
| <p>2. How effective was the communication today among your child's doctors about your child's treatment plan?</p> <p>a. Not at all effective
b. Mildly effective
c. Moderately effective
d. Very effective</p> | <p>5. How well were you included today in planning and making decisions about your child's hospital care?</p> <p>a. Not at all well
b. Mildly well
c. Moderately well
d. Very well</p> |
| <p>3. If different doctors talked to you today about your child's condition or treatment, how confused did they make you by telling you different things?</p> <p>a. Very confused
b. Moderately confused
c. Mildly confused
d. Not at all confused</p> | |

Figure 1. 5-question family survey provided following resident independent and traditional rounds.

- Survey results from families who experienced resident independent rounds were compared to those who experienced traditional rounds.
- Mean Likert scores from families who experienced the two rounding structures were compared with the paired (Figure 3) or independent t-test.

Conclusions

- Team communication with both rounding models was positive.
- Rounding without the attending did not negatively impact family perception of team communication compared to traditional rounds.

Implications

- Concern may arise that resident independent rounds may negatively impact team communication with families, one of the benefits of family-centered rounds. Our study, showing that family perceptions of team communication is similar with both rounding models, may lessen this concern.
- Similar family perceptions of team communication further supports implementing resident independent rounds to increase resident autonomy.
- Further work is needed to evaluate attending physicians, nurses, and learners' perspectives of this hybrid rounding model.

Disclosures

I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose.

Results

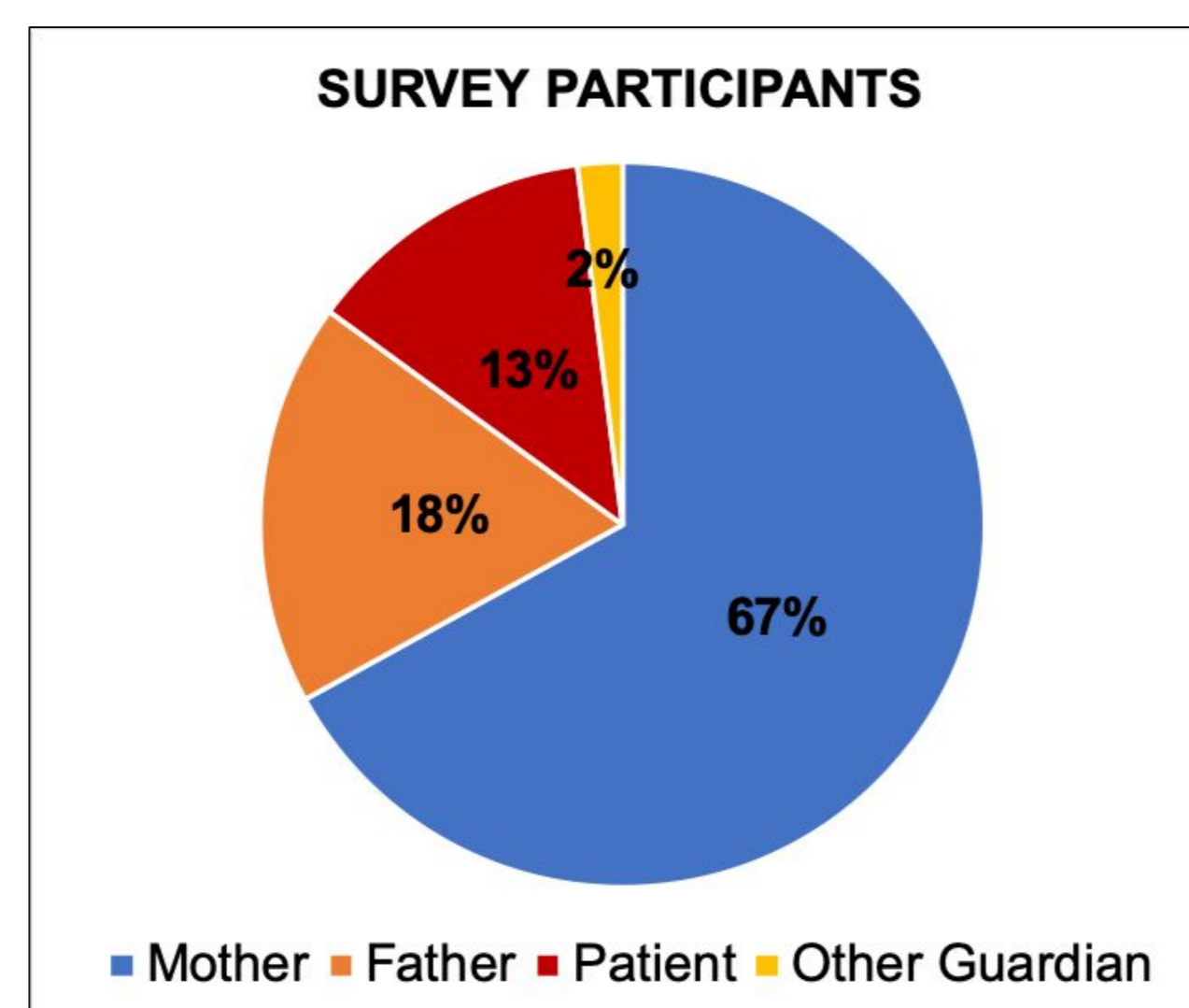


Figure 2. A total of 48 surveys were completed by 32 families. Above is a further break down based on respondent (67% mother, 18% father, 13% patient, 2% other guardian).

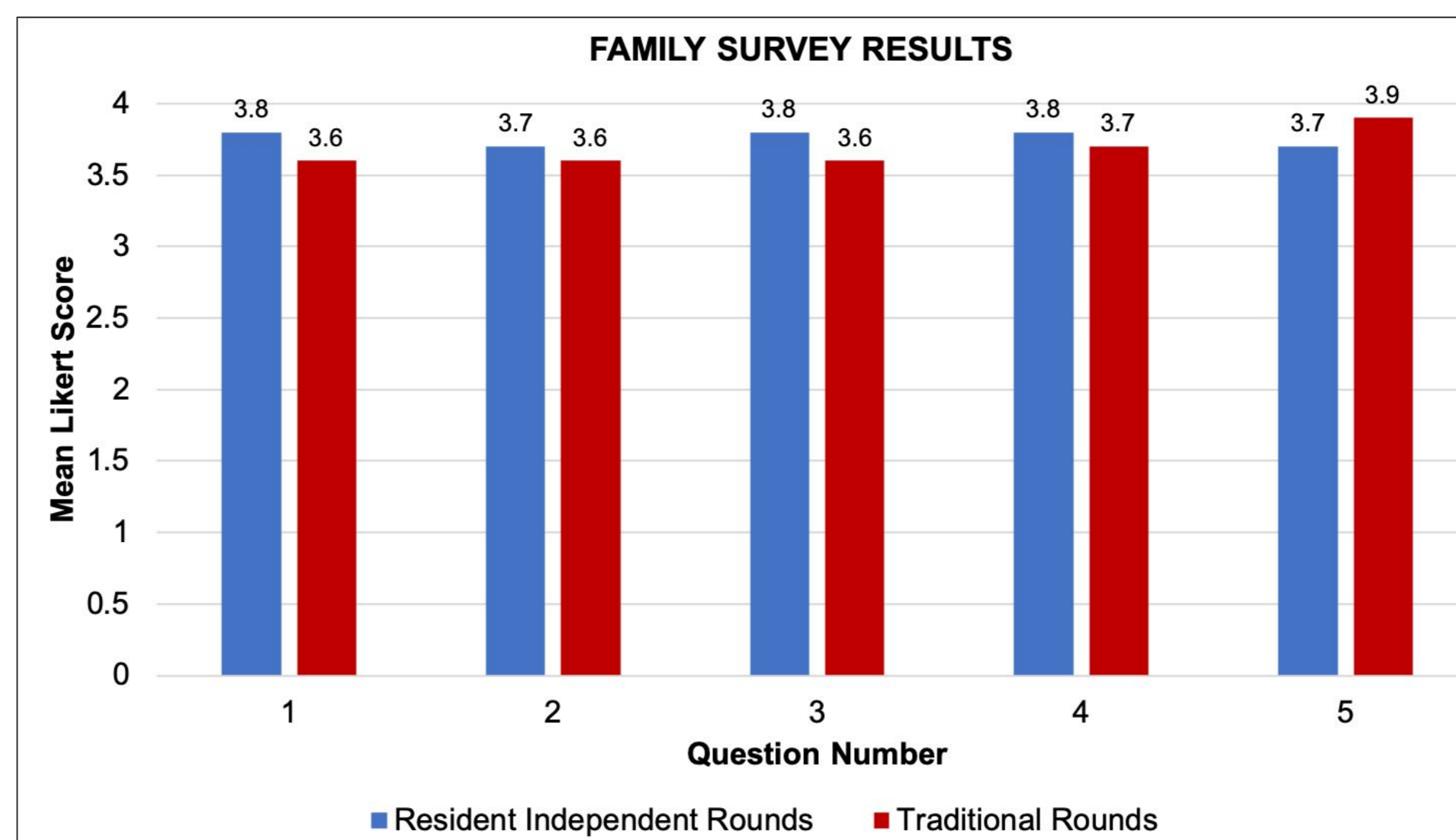


Figure 3. Representation of average answer for questions 1-5 on family survey, as above in Figure 1. No significant differences (p-value <0.05) were found between average score of family survey questions when comparing resident independent rounds to traditional rounds (P=0.50; 0.75; 0.43; 0.20; 0.62 for questions 1-5, respectively) for 16 families who experienced both rounding formats.

- For 16 families who experienced solely one rounding format (n=3 resident independent rounds, n=13 traditional rounds), team communication was positive without significant differences in outcome measures.