

#397 Satisfaction and perceived impact of a postgraduate pelvic floor physiotherapy program: results of an online survey among physiotherapy graduates

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INTRODUCTION

Context

Before 2010:

- No specialized university training in pelvic floor physiotherapy (PFP) in Canada
- Minimal to no training time dedicated to PFP in entry-to-practice level physiotherapy programs¹
- Limited number of physiotherapists with specialized training in PFP; inadequate to meet the demands²

Solution:

- Creation of postgraduate program in PFP in 2010 to address training needs in the field
- Six courses, spanning over six trimesters, leading to a 15-credit postgraduate certificate
- Clinical skills encompassing assessment, reasoning and treatment
- Catering to a variety of clients and conditions
- Grounded in evidence-based practice



Aims of study

To evaluate the **satisfaction** of new graduates with the program and their perception of its **impact on their clinical practice** in PFP.

STUDY DESIGN, MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design

Retrospective pre-post study using an online survey methodology, with students providing feedback after graduation, using valid outcome measures³

Material

- New World Kirkpatrick Model (NWKM) serving as a general framework to evaluate this PFP program
- Focus on the first (i.e., learner reaction) and last (i.e., practice impacts) levels of NWKM evaluation

Methods

Survey A

Sent a **few months** post-graduation for every year's cohort since 2012

- **Satisfaction** of new graduates with PFP program (measured on a 6-point Likert scale)
- % of **clinical practice** dedicated to PFP clients **before** and **during** the program



Survey B

Sent **one** and **two years** after graduation since 2015

- **Weekly caseload** (% time and number of PFP patients) **before** and **during** the program, and at the **time of the survey**
- Number of years since program completion

Statistical analysis:

- **Survey A:** **Wilcoxon** non-parametric statistics to test significant differences between students' weekly caseloads allocated to PFP (before and during the program)
- **Survey B:** **Friedman's** non-parametric test to assess significant differences between students' weekly caseload dedicated to PFP (before, during and at the time of the survey). If significant, post hoc analysis conducted using **Wilcoxon** statistics.
- **Bonferroni** corrections applied if necessary

REFERENCES

1. Francis A, Madill S, Gentilcore Saulnier E, McLean L. Survey of Canadian Physiotherapists: Entry-Level and Post-professional Education in Women's Health. Physiotherapy Canada. 2012;64(3): 271-279.
2. Le Berre M, Dumoulin C. Accessibility of pelvic floor physiotherapy for treating urinary incontinence in older women in Quebec: an online survey. Physiotherapy Canada. 2022 Sept; https://doi.org/10.3138/ptc-2021-0089.
3. Bhanji, Gottesman, de Grave, Steinhilber, Winer. The retrospective pre-post: A practical method to evaluate learning from an educational program. Academic emergency medicine. 2012; 19(2): 189-194.

RESULTS

Respondent characteristics

	Survey A n=85	Survey B 1-year n=48	Survey B 2-years n=40
Sex, n (%)			
• Male	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
• Female	85 (100%)	48 (100%)	40 (100%)
Age, n (%)			
• 25-29 years	54 (64%)	27 (57%)	17 (43%)
• 30-34 years	20 (24%)	12 (26%)	18 (45%)
Education in physiotherapy, n (%)			
• Bachelor's degree	28 (33%)	11 (23%)	9 (22%)
• Master's degree	57 (67%)	37 (77%)	31 (78%)
Workplace, n (%)			
• Private practice	67 (79%)	44 (92%)	31 (77%)
• Public hospitals	20 (24%)	8 (17%)	9 (23%)

Survey A: total response rate of 49.7%

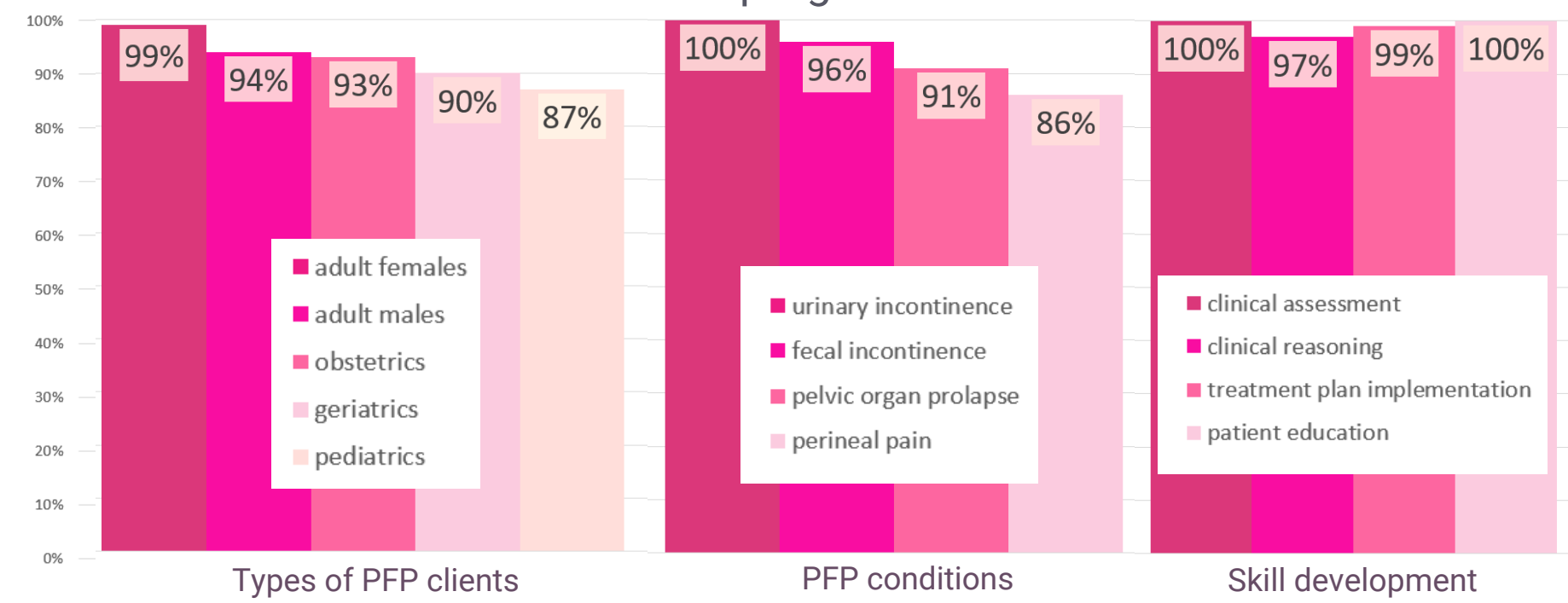
Survey B at 1-year: total response rate of 50.0%

Survey B at 2-years: total response rate of 45.5%



Survey A

Percentage of new graduates who were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the program:



Percentage of the total caseload before and during the program:

Clients	Before program (a)	During program (b)	Wilcoxon test (Z) (a vs. (b))
Overall PFP clients	0 (0-7.5)	15.5 (7.5-35.5)	-6.400 **
PFP adult males	0 (0-0)	2.5 (0-7.5)	-5.364 **
PFP adult females	0 (0-45.5)	35.5 (15.5-65.5)	-4.434 **
PFP obstetrics	0 (0-7.5)	25.5 (2.5-45.5)	-4.818 **
PFP geriatrics	0 (0-2.5)	2.5 (1.3-7.5)	-3.873 **

** : p value <0.001

% of total caseload: represents the estimated percentage of PFP clients in the physiotherapist's caseload

Survey B

Percentage and number of clients per week, one year and two years after program completion:

	Overall PFP	Before program (a)	During program (b)	At survey time (c)	Friedman test $\chi^2_{(df=2)}(a,b,c)$	Wilcoxon test (Z)		
						(a) vs. (b)	(b) vs. (c)	(a) vs. (c)
1-year Post	% caseload	0 (0-18.0)	18.0 (8.0-53.0)	38.0 (8.0-93.0)	47.59 **	-5.164 **	-3.320 **	-4.943 **
	N/week	0 (0-5.0)	8.0 (3.0-15.0)	12.0 (3.0-20.0)	40.44 **	-4.357 **	-3.073 **	-4.452 **
2-years Post	% caseload	0 (0-13.0)	18.0 (8.0-33.0)	43.0 (18.0-88.0)	55.42 **	-4.790 **	-4.176 **	-4.826 **
	N/week	0 (0-4.0)	5.0 (2.0-9.0)	11.0 (5.0-20.0)	54.16 **	-4.791 **	-4.173 **	-4.871 **

% caseload: represents the estimated percentage of PFP clients in the physiotherapist's caseload

N/week: represents the estimated number of PFP clients treated per week

*: p value < .05 ; **: p value <0.001

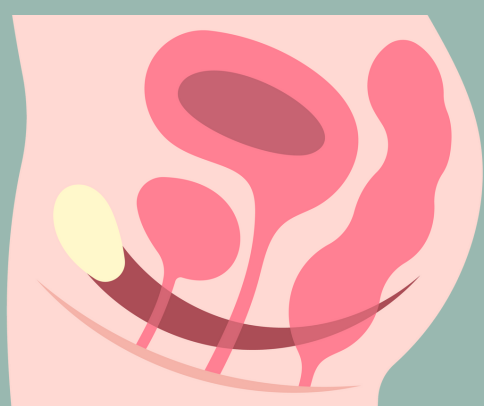
INTERPRETATION & CONCLUDING MESSAGE

Survey A

- Satisfaction of new graduates
- Already allocating a higher proportion of caseload to PFP clients

Survey B

- Doubling the PFP clients in:
 - % caseload
 - Number of patients treated weekly



Université de Montréal's postgraduate program in PFP: satisfaction of graduates with the program and perceived program impact on practice