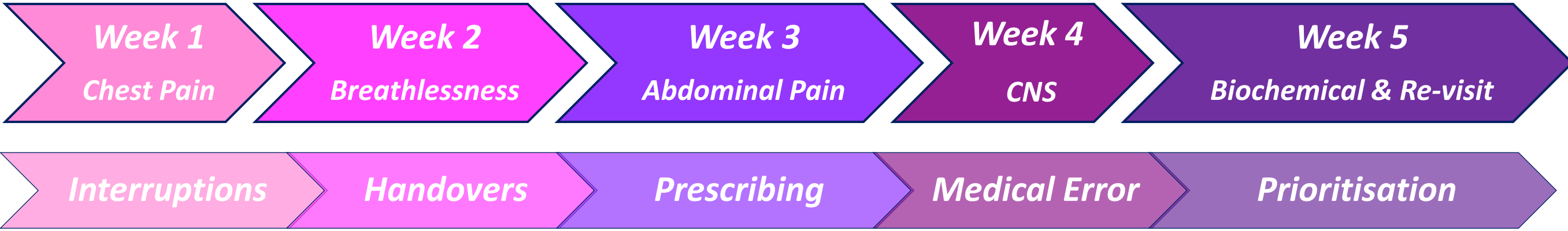


Longitudinal simulation: a novel way to increase preparedness to practice skill acquisition in final year medical students



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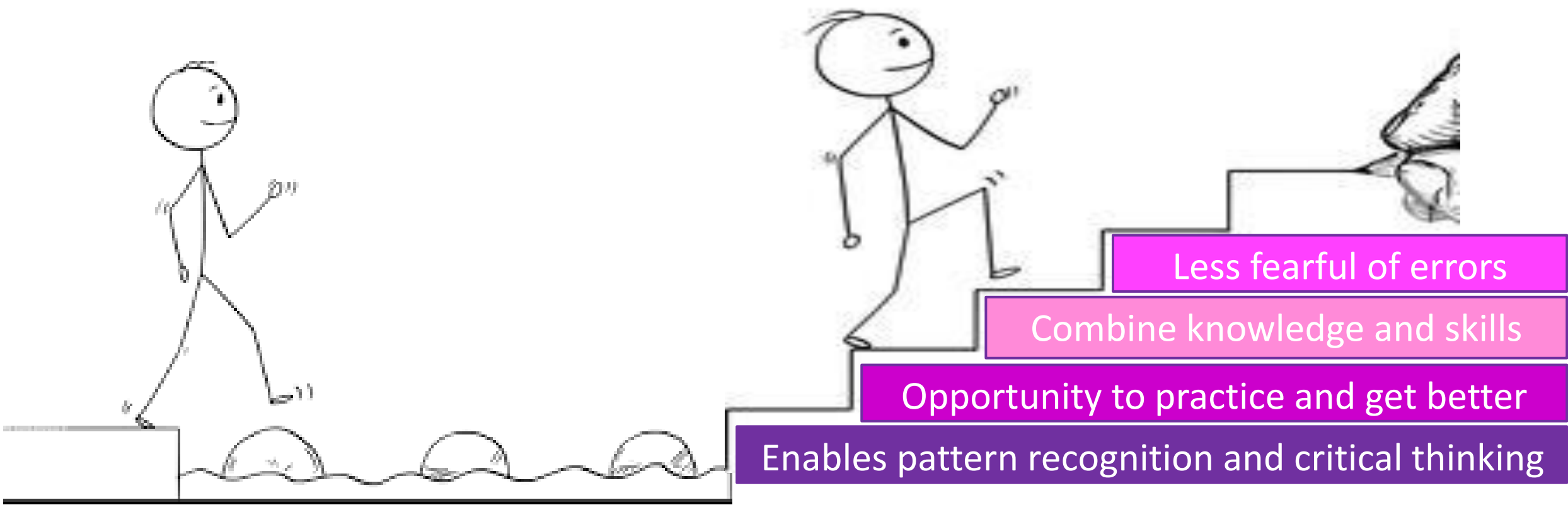


INTRODUCTION

- ⚡ Newly graduated junior doctors regularly report being underprepared for clinical practice
- ⚡ Isolated simulation encounters have been shown to improve competence and preparedness in this unique group
- ⚡ It is not known if repeated, longitudinal simulation can further impact preparedness to practice

METHODS

- ⚡ Simulations were conducted weekly for 5 weeks
- ⚡ Focused on curriculum-based emergencies with increasing complexity and realism
- ⚡ Final year students on preparatory clinical placements invited: 19 students completed the study
- ⚡ Data was collected using focus groups and audio diaries
- ⚡ First-look results via thematic analysis using an interpretive descriptive approach



RESULTS

- ⚡ All participants felt more confident and prepared for the realities of working as a junior doctor at the end of the study
- ⚡ The longitudinal aspect of the program improved acquisition of clinical skills compared with standalone simulation sessions
- ⚡ All participants felt that the longitudinal simulation program helped them to further mould their unique professional identity, work together as a community of peers and appropriately prioritise tasks
- ⚡ All participants indicated that a longitudinal approach such as this should be offered to all final year medical students

DISCUSSION

- ⚡ Initial analysis suggests that a longitudinal simulation programme can increase preparedness to practice in this cohort of final year medical students
- ⚡ The longitudinal approach supported the navigation of real-life challenges in a psychologically safe environment which enhanced individual learning and enabled the acquisition and refinement of clinical skills and behaviours
- ⚡ Students reported integrating simulated learning with 'on-the-ward' experiences gained during their placements, which in turn impacted upon future simulation encounters and facilitated deep reflective practice
- ⚡ A longitudinal simulation programme offers an innovative way to improve perceived preparedness to practice



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