

Functional vs. anatomical models for teaching suction curette – what do junior doctors prefer?

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Introduction

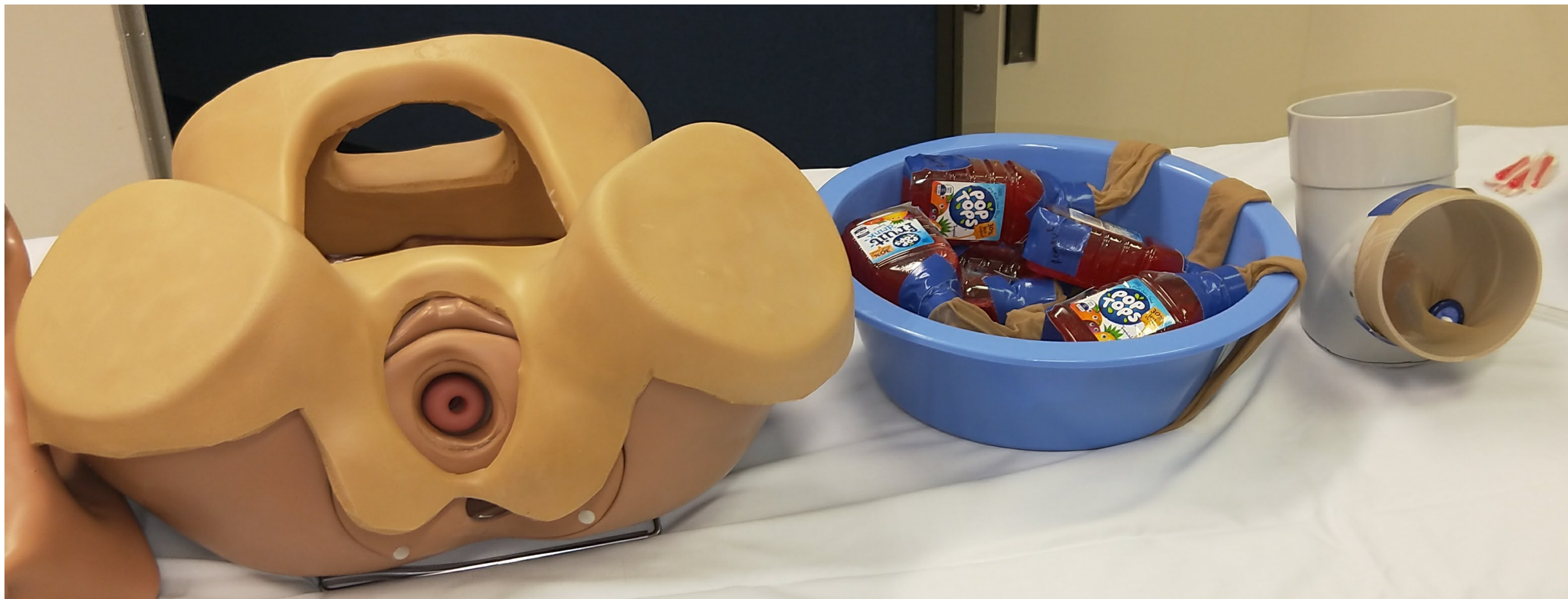
- Simulation training enables clinicians to build skills in a safe environment.
- In gynaecology, suction curette is a common procedure in which junior clinicians must obtain competency.
- Common simulation models for suction curette include a pawpaw fruit (seasonally unavailable), or more expensive static pelvic models (no functional fidelity).

Objective

- To compare a novel simulation “Pop-top” model constructed of low-cost commonly available materials and a static pelvic “Zoe” model.

Methods

- Junior doctors (N=14) who had performed less than 10 suction curettes performed this procedure on both models then completed a seven-point Likert scale questionnaire.



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Results

Characteristic	Pop-top model (Median)	Zoe model (Median)	P value
Anatomical appearance	4	6	0.01
Tissue action	6	4	0.003
Anatomical accuracy	5.5	6	0.75
Set up	6	6	0.82
Overall realism	6	6	0.89
Educational value	7	7	0.37
Importance for training	7	7	0.77

- The Zoe model was rated higher than the Pop-top model for anatomical appearance.
- The Pop-top model received higher scores for tissue action.
- There was no statistical difference regarding anatomical accuracy, set up, overall performance, educational value for training or the importance of the simulator models for training in this procedure.

Conclusion

- Given these similarities, the Pop-top model may be considered as a more cost-effective, easily constructed model for teaching suction curette.