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## Introduction

- Abbreviations in medical notes have become extensive and commonplace<sup>1</sup>
- Some have multiple interpretations<sup>2</sup>.
- Dermatologic specialty-specific abbreviations are potentially problematic.

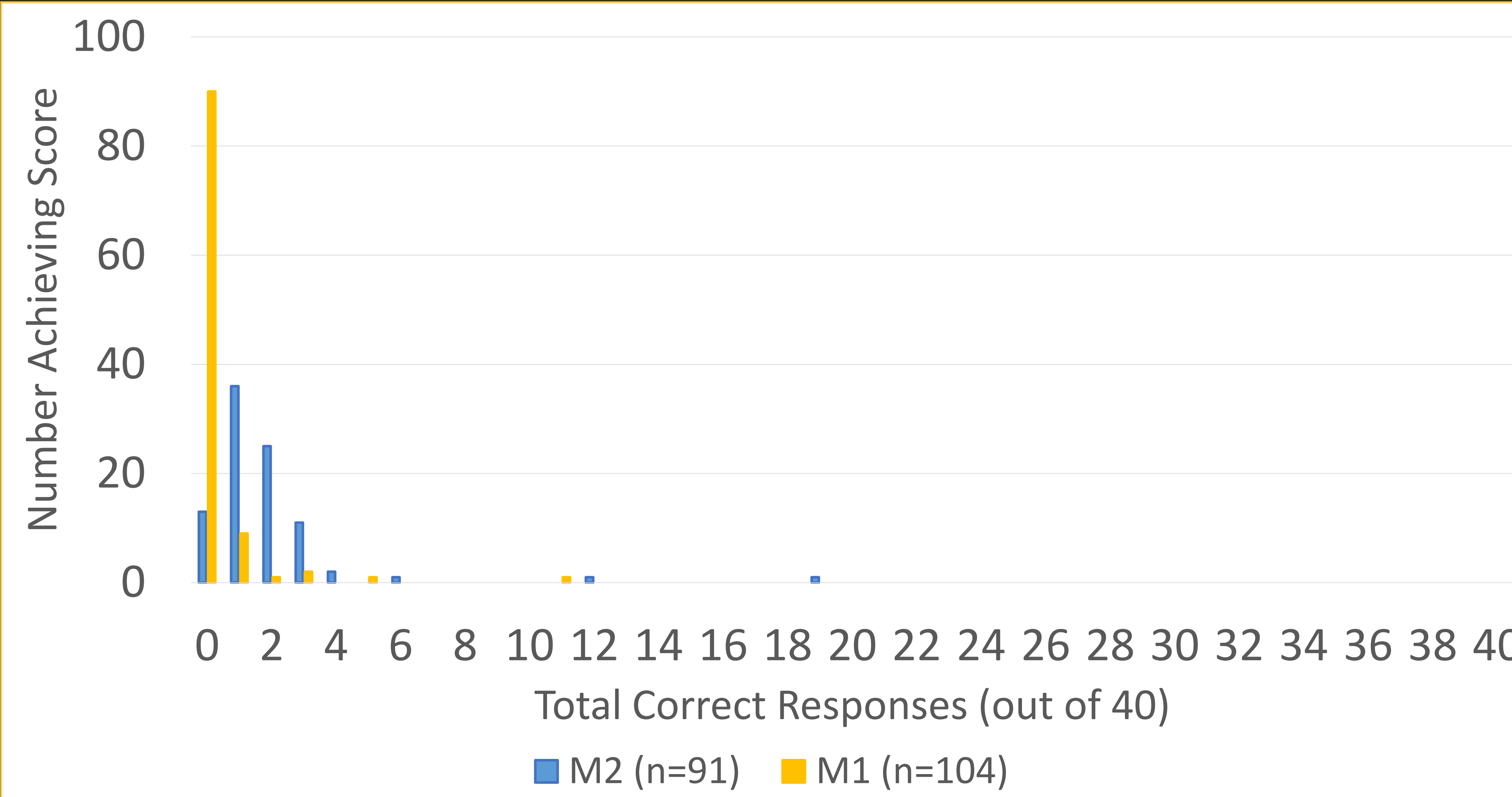


Figure 1: Score on dermatology abbreviation survey by first and second year medical students

## Results

- The mean number of correct responses for the M1 class (n=104) was 0.32 out of 40 (0.79%) and for the M2 class (n=91) was 1.89 out of 40 (4.73%).
- The data was controlled for previous medical experience, with no appreciable difference in number of correct responses

## Objective

- Evaluate the understanding of commonly used dermatology abbreviations among medical students
  - To survey the resources commonly used to learn new abbreviations.

## Materials & methods

First and second year medical students were surveyed as a group after lecture. The survey contained 40 commonly used Dermatology abbreviations chosen based on the consensus of the authors and in line with previous Dermatology research. All responses were compiled into a spreadsheet for analysis and comparison through medical education progression.

M1	Number Correct	Percentage Correct
BX	10	9.62%
BCC	4	3.85%
SCC	3	2.88%
SK	3	2.88%
SLE	3	2.88%
AK	3	2.88%

Table 1: Most commonly chosen correct responses for the M1 class

M2	Number Correct	Percentage Correct
SLE	72	79.12%
SJS	40	43.96%
SCC	10	10.99%
BCC	9	9.89%
AK	6	6.59%
BX	6	6.59%

Table 2: Most commonly chosen correct responses for the M2 class

## Conclusion

- The understanding of dermatology abbreviations among first and second year medical students at the University of Missouri is minimal
- Poor dermatologic healthcare literacy is exacerbated by the fact that medical students have minimal exposure to Dermatology during their education<sup>2</sup>.
- Additional exposure to Dermatology in the preclinical and clinical education years is needed and a decrease in use of specialty-specific abbreviations may be beneficial

### References:

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