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21 Emergency Medicine Program Leadership Preferences For In Person Versus Virtual Residency Interviews

Erin Karl, Mary Ann Edens, Linda Katirji, Jeanette Kurbedin, Mark Olaf, Michael Pasirstein, Alexis Pelletier-Bui, Anneli von Reinhart

Learning Objectives: Assess EM residency program leadership preferences/concerns for the 2021-22 residency interview cycle.

Background: The Coalition for Physician Accountability recommended 2021-2022 residency interviews be held virtually. Studies assessing EM program leadership preferences for virtual versus in person interviews have been limited.

Objective: Assess EM residency program leadership preferences/concerns for the 2021-2022 residency interview cycle.

Methods: Via CORD’s Program Director and Faculty Community, EM program leadership were asked to complete a 10 question survey, which included likert, multiple choice, and open response questions. There were 73 responses (86.3% PDs, 12.3% APDs, 2.7% CDs, Vice Chair of Education 1.4%). Descriptive and summary statistics were used.

Results: When asked comfort level with formats for 2021-2022, respondents felt most comfortable (agree or strongly agree) with virtual interviews only (64.4%), followed by virtual interviews with all applicants with optional in person second looks (57.5%), in person interviews only (50.7%), and offering both in person and virtual formats with applicants choosing the format they prefer (29.1%). When asked which one format they prefer, 37% preferred virtual interviews with all applicants with optional in person second looks, followed by 26% virtual interviews only, 20.5% offering both in person and virtual formats with applicants choosing which format they prefer, and 16.4% preferred in person interviews only (Figure 1). There was concern for bias if students are given a choice between in person and virtual interviews (Figure 2). In the open response, a novel idea suggested second looks for students after programs have submitted their rank list, yet before students submit their lists.

Conclusions: A majority of EM program leaders feel comfortable with virtual interviews only for the 2021-2022 cycle. The largest percentage prefer virtual interviews with all applicants, with optional in person second looks. As a follow up, we plan to survey current interns who interviewed in 2020-2021.

Looking ahead to the upcoming 2021-2022 NRMP application/interview cycle, I would prefer:

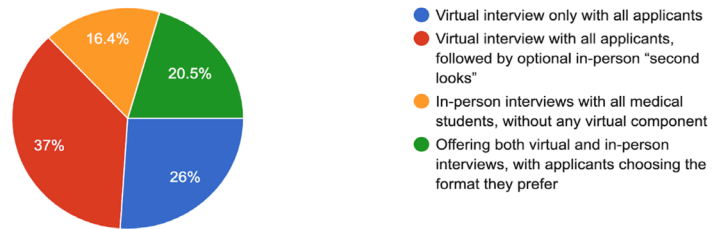


Figure 1. Program leadership top preference for the 2021-2022 application/interview cycle.

Do you believe there is a significant potential for bias if there is a choice between a live, in person interview or virtual interview? (Select all that apply)

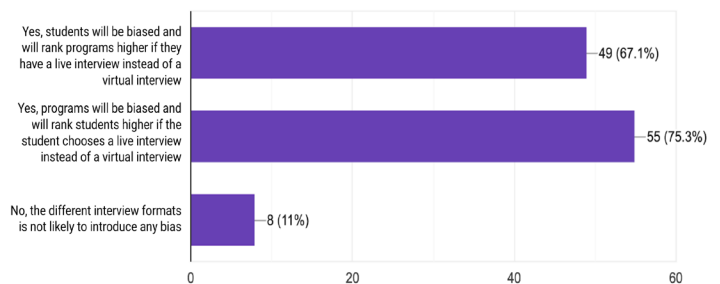


Figure 2. Program leadership concern for bias with choice of in-person and virtual interviews.

22 Medical Student Perceptions of the Virtual Interview Process for Emergency Medicine Residency Application

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Learning Objectives: Investigate medical student perceptions of the virtual interview process.

Background: In the setting of the Covid-19 pandemic, emergency medicine (EM) residency programs engaged an unprecedented transition to virtual interviews. The use of virtual interviews and their impact on medical students had not been previously studied in the published literature.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate medical student perceptions of the virtual interview process.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional survey-based study of EM applicants who interviewed at our community teaching hospital during the 2020-21 season. The survey was sent electronically to all interviewees following Match Day, excluding applicants who had completed a clinical rotation