

# How do Junior Doctors learn the Newborn and Infant Physical Examination?

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## Introduction

The newborn and infant physical examination (NIPE) is part of the newborn screening programme in the UK, performed between birth and discharge from hospital. It is a routine job for neonatal junior doctors at SHO (Senior House Officer) level.

The process is taught during medical school, and at the start of every neonatal job, in a variety of ways. The UK National Screening Programme has an e-learning module, and gives advice on ongoing training, and the London School of Paediatrics advises completion of a workplace-based assessment to complement this.

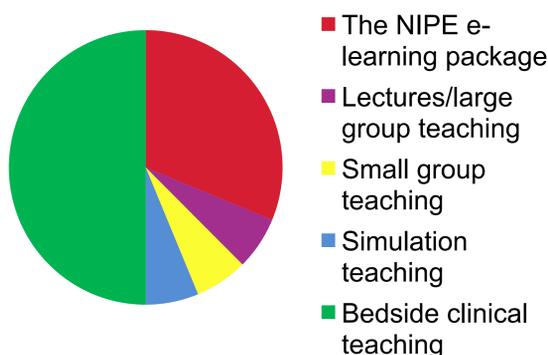
There is minimal research into the teaching and learning of the NIPE, with most studies comparing doctors to other multidisciplinary team members rather than educational techniques. This project aimed to assess neonatal SHOs' experience of teaching styles in their postgraduate education on the NIPE, including what they found enjoyable and useful.

## Methods

Online questionnaires were used to gather quantitative and qualitative data on SHO experiences of teaching styles.

The survey was sent to all neonatal SHOs working at a tertiary level neonatal unit over the course of a year (18 doctors), with a final response rate of 44%.

### Teaching methods experienced



## Results

Overall SHO experience:

- "Very satisfied" (25%)
- "Somewhat satisfied" (75%)

Bedside teaching benefits:

- Hands on, practical experience
- Observation by more senior clinicians

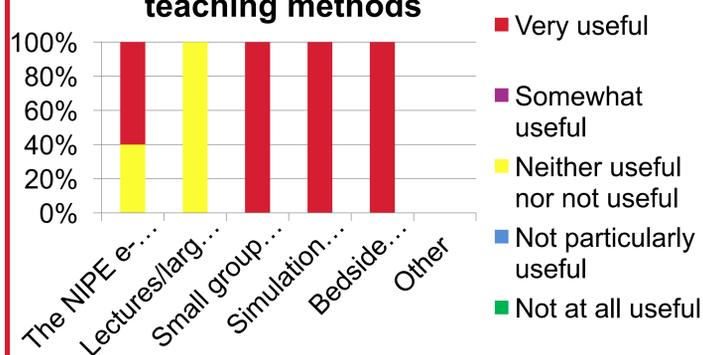
Most popular teaching method was a combination of e-learning and bedside teaching

- gold-standard resource
- face-to-face practice
- most enjoyable and most useful

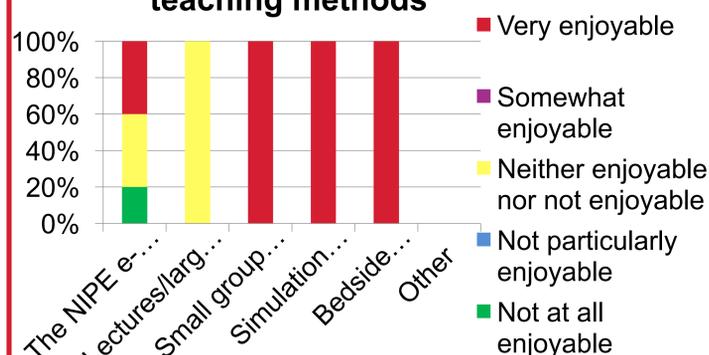
Workplace-based assessment

- No SHOs completed a NIPE assessment
- Mixed views on potential benefits

### Perceived usefulness of teaching methods



### Perceived enjoyability of teaching methods



### Results – themes



## Conclusions

Overall, blended learning – the combination of e-learning and bedside teaching – was the most favoured by the neonatal SHOs surveyed.

The NIPE is an important newborn screening tool, and an important SHO skill. Teaching programmes should be adapted to ensure this combination of teaching methods is included.

## References

- Hoque, N., Wang, S. & Watson, M. 2015. Recommendations for supporting ST1 trainees in neonates [online]. London School of Paediatrics. UK National Screening Committee. 2008. Newborn and Infant Physical Examination: Standards and competencies. Public Health England. UK National Screening Committee. 2014. Programme Statement: Maintaining competency in undertaking NIPE examinations. Public Health England. UK National Screening Committee. 2015. Newborn and Infant Physical Examination e-learning [online]. Public Health England.