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# Retention of Knowledge in Preclinical Disciplines by Clinical Students in the IIUM Medical Programme

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## INTRODUCTION

A thorough knowledge in the various disciplines of the basic sciences is a major importance for the practice of clinical medicine. Many basic sciences teachers share a common concern that much of what they teach in preclinical phase is soon forgotten when students move to clinical years.

## OBJECTIVE

To examine the retention of such knowledge by clinical students in the Medical Programme of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

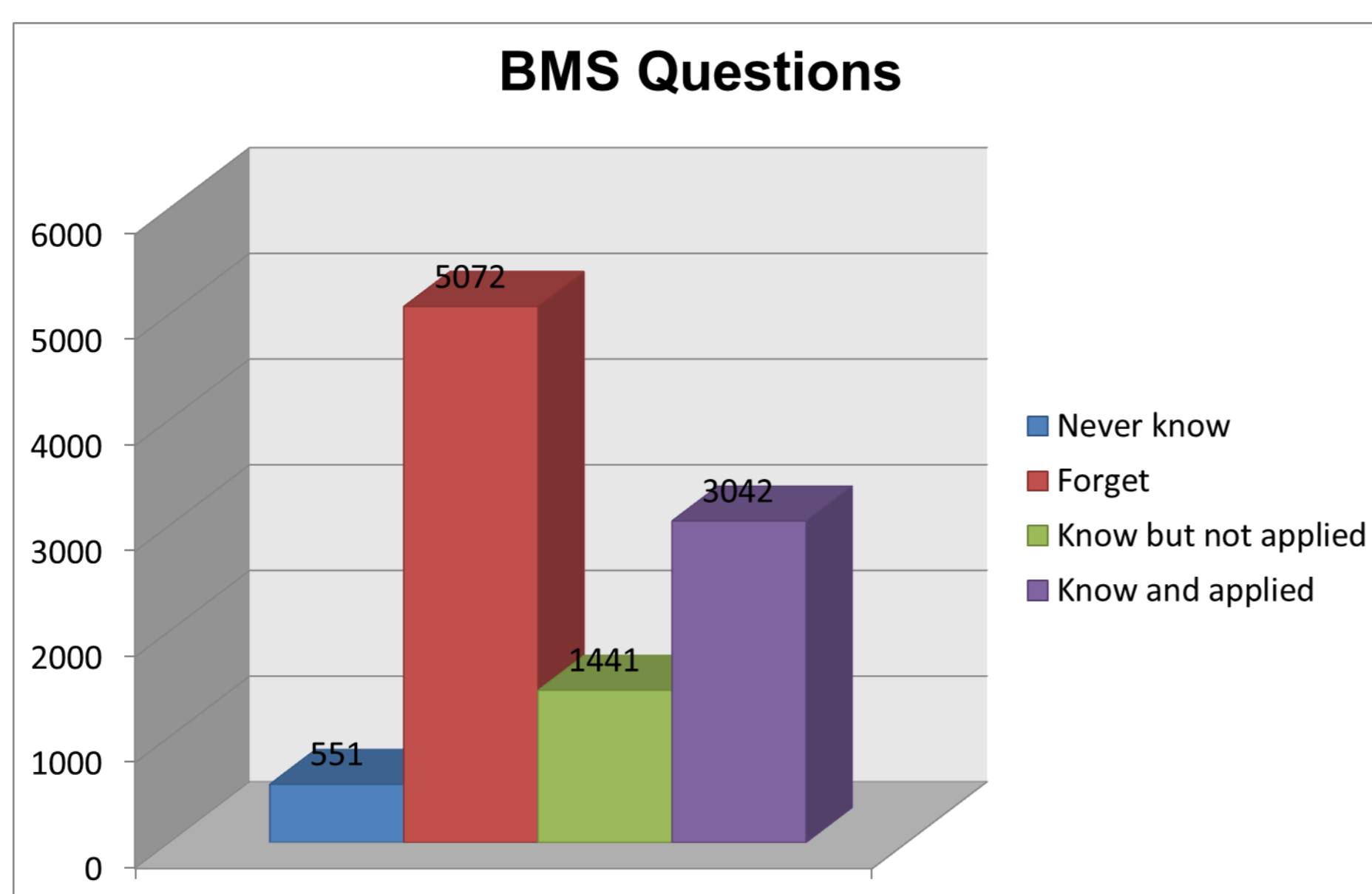
## METHODS

Sixty seven Year 3 and 64 Year 5 students undergoing the Paediatric posting rotation of the academic sessions 2011/2012 were included into this study. Open-ended, short-answer questions of the completion type in the disciplines of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and general pathology constructed by experts were used. These questions were used to test the retention of the above stated knowledge. Self-administered questionnaire was also designed to obtain the perceptions of students on the learning of basic medical sciences.

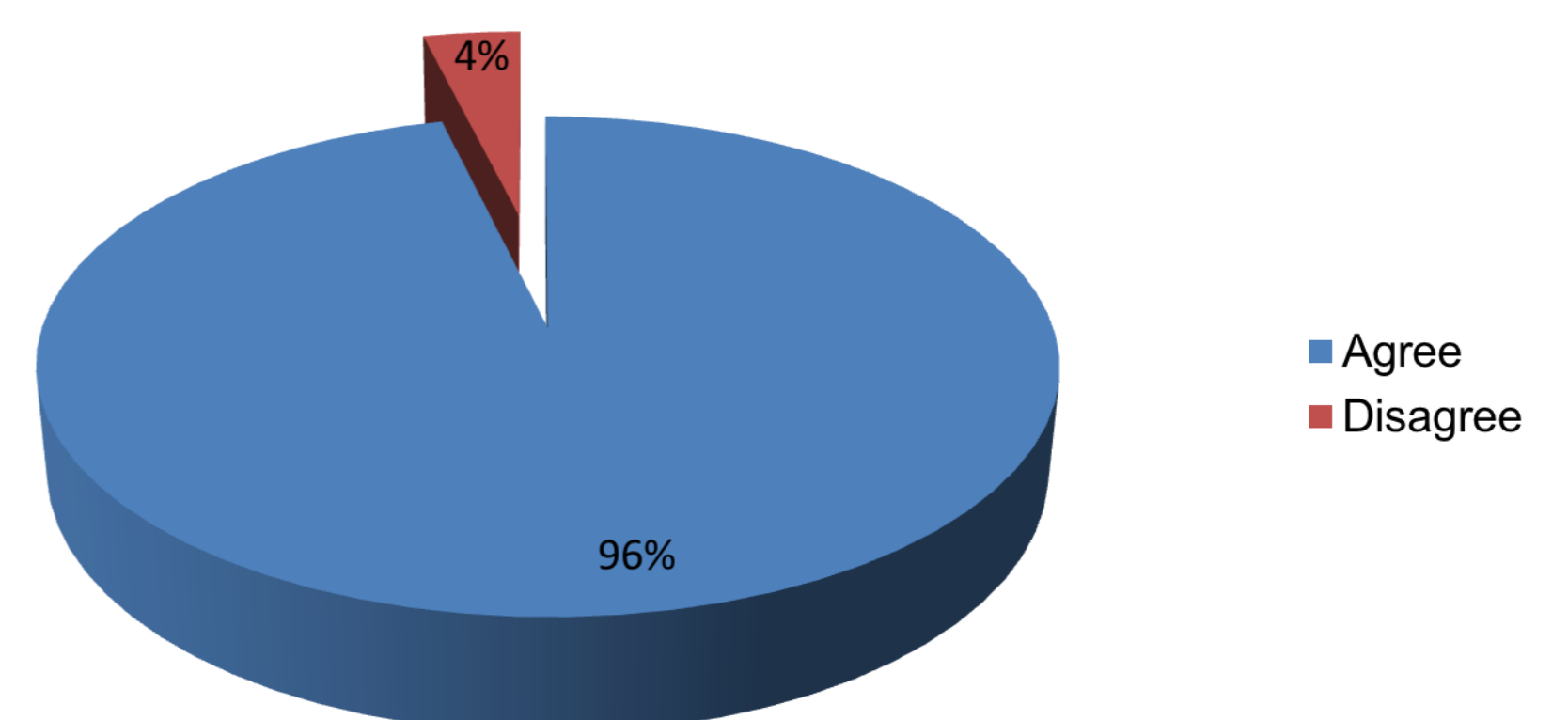
## RESULTS

Group Statistics					
	YEAR	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
TOTAL SCORE	3	67	31.9284	10.24968	1.25220
	5	64	37.6859	10.08221	1.26028

Independent Samples Test											
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
										Lower	Upper
TOTAL SCORE	Equal variances assumed	.001	.980	-3.240	129	.002	-5.75758	1.77727	-9.27396	-2.24120	
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.241	128.886	.002	-5.75758	1.77660	-9.27265	-2.24251	



Students remembered information better due to vertical integration in the curriculum



## CONCLUSIONS

This study did not see deterioration in the retention of knowledge in basic medical sciences as the clinical students progress through clinical years. Students stated that the integration of knowledge in basic medical sciences disciplines into the clinical sciences during the preclinical years helped them remember facts better.