

Dissertation Presentation on “A Study on Turn Around Time for Initial Assessment of Inpatients by Medical Officers at Medanta Hospital, Lucknow”

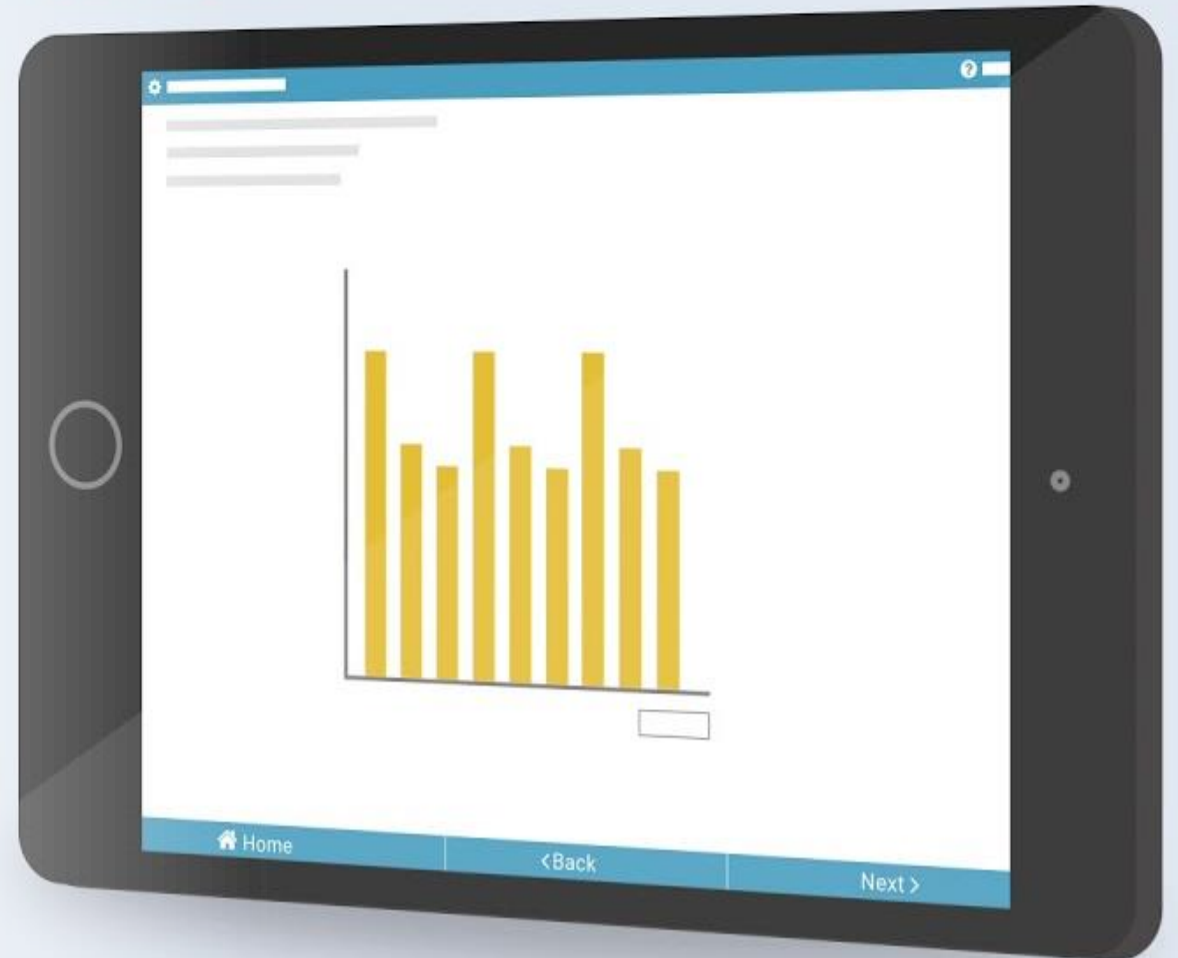
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Background

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

- The initial assessment of patients admitted to the inpatient department should be conducted by the medical officers **within 120 minutes of their admission**, as per the prescribed standards.
- This assessment is essential for figuring out the patient's health, history, and symptoms as well as for creating an effective care plan.
- The amount of time needed for the evaluation, however, may differ based on variables including hospital procedures, patient acuity, and resource availability, but it should be done within 120 minutes.



OBJECTIVES:

- To assess the time for initial assessment of inpatients by medical officers in inpatient department.
- To identify all those factors that significantly contribute to the delay in initial assessment by medical officers.
- Developing and implementing an interventions that will reduce the time spent on initial assessments by medical officers in hospitals.
- Identify the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing the initial assessment time by medical officers in inpatient departments.
- Identification of challenges and barriers encountered during the implementation of the intervention and suggestions on how to overcome them.
- Recommend strategies for reducing the time of initial assessment by medical officers in inpatient departments.



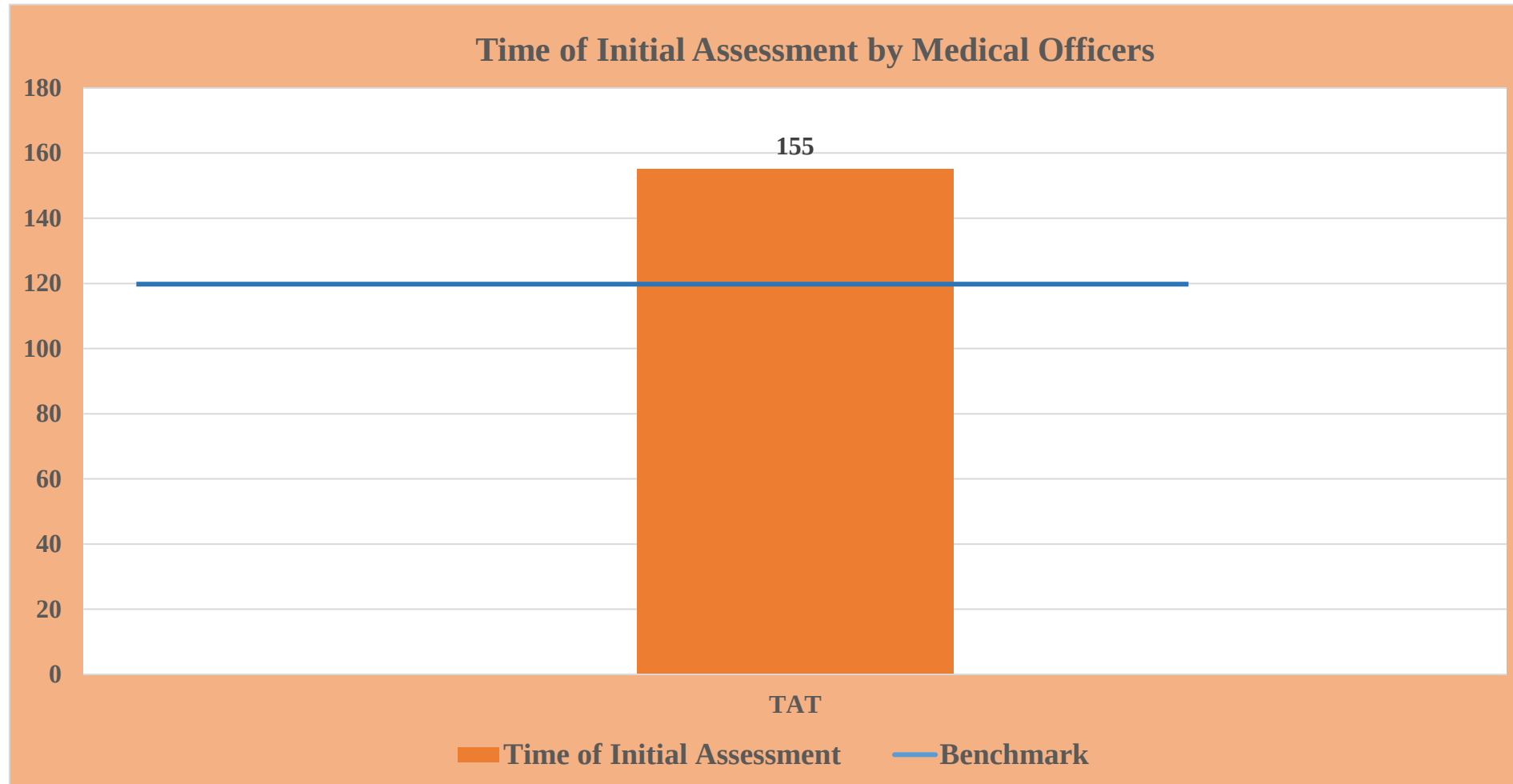
METHODOLOGY:

- It was a **cross sectional study**, covering a span of **two and a half months** (March 10, 2023 to May 25, 2023).
- A total sample of **283 in- patient admissions** were selected through convenient sampling method for the study.
- **Only the elective inpatients** were included in this study while the emergency, day care, dialysis and chemo admissions in hospital were excluded.



Results and Discussion

Objective 1: To assess the time for initial assessment of inpatients by medical officers in inpatient department.





The study's first objective was to determine how long it takes medical officers in the inpatient department to assess patients initially. A total of **121 patients were included** in the study, with data collection beginning on March 10th.



I made sure to properly choose particular parameters while obtaining data for the initial assessment in order to guarantee thorough information gathering. The criteria chosen were the patient's unique identity (Patient ID), the name of the practitioner who conducted the examination, and the timestamps indicating the **patient's arrival (T1) and the doctor's conclusion of the examination (T2)**



It was found that the average Turnaround Time (TAT) of initial assessment was **155 minutes** for the initial assessment, significantly higher than the benchmark of **120 minutes**. According to this, the assessment process has been delayed substantially, suggesting potential issues or inefficiencies within the current workflow.

Objective 2nd - To identify all those factors that significantly contribute to the delay in initial assessment by medical officers.



**Staffing and
workload**



**Communication
Challenge**



**Triage and
Prioritization**



**Resources and
equipment
availability**



**Documentation
requirements and
administrative
procedures**



**Organizational
Constraints**



**Knowledge and
Capabilities**

Objective 3rd - Developing and implementing an interventions that will reduce the time spent on initial assessments by medical officers in hospitals.

Streamline Triage Process

Standardised Assessment procedures

Optimise Staffing and Workflow

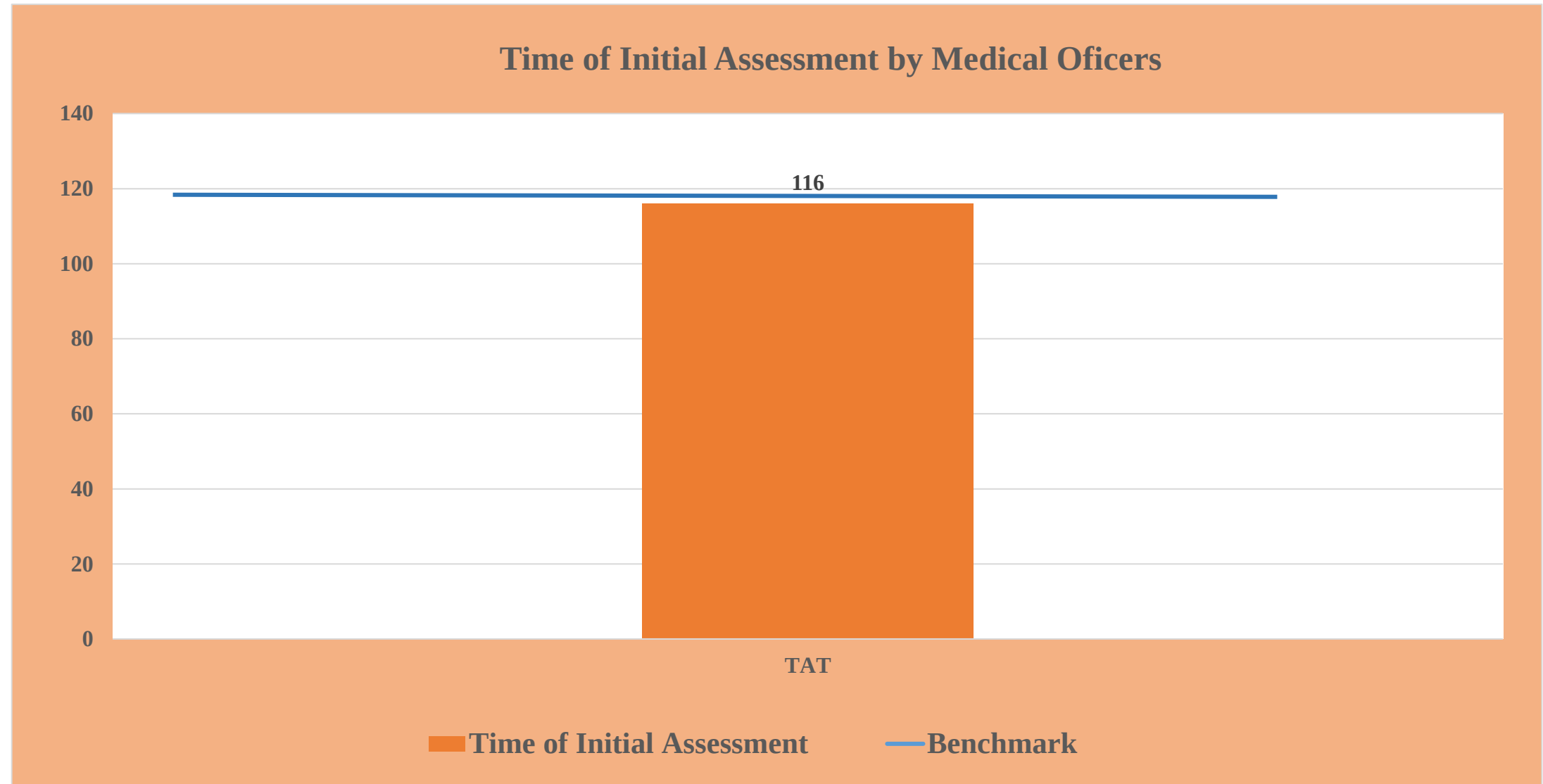
Improve Information Accessibility

Enhance Communication and Collaboration

Utilize Point-of-Care Testing

Provide Education and Training

Objective 4th - Identify the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing the initial assessment time by medical officers in inpatient departments.



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- The average assessment time in March was 155 minutes prior to the interventions. A careful implementation of the identified strategies, however, resulted in a considerable decrease in assessment time, reaching 116 minutes on average.
 - This decrease in assessment time not only fell below the benchmark of 120 minutes but also showed how well the interventions had improved productivity and sped up the process of assessment.
 - The reduction in assessment time not only fell below the benchmark of 120 minutes but also showed how well the interventions had improved productivity and sped up the process of assessment.
 - . The triage procedure was streamlined to make sure that patients who required care right away were given top priority and examined right away. A systematic method was made available to medical officers with the development of standardised assessment processes, allowing them to carry out evaluations effectively and consistently.



Medical professional' emphasis on teamwork and communication encouraged effective information sharing and cooperative conversations, resulting in more simplified evaluations.



Additionally, the regular delivery of instruction and training gave medical officers the information and skills they needed to improve their time management and evaluation methods.

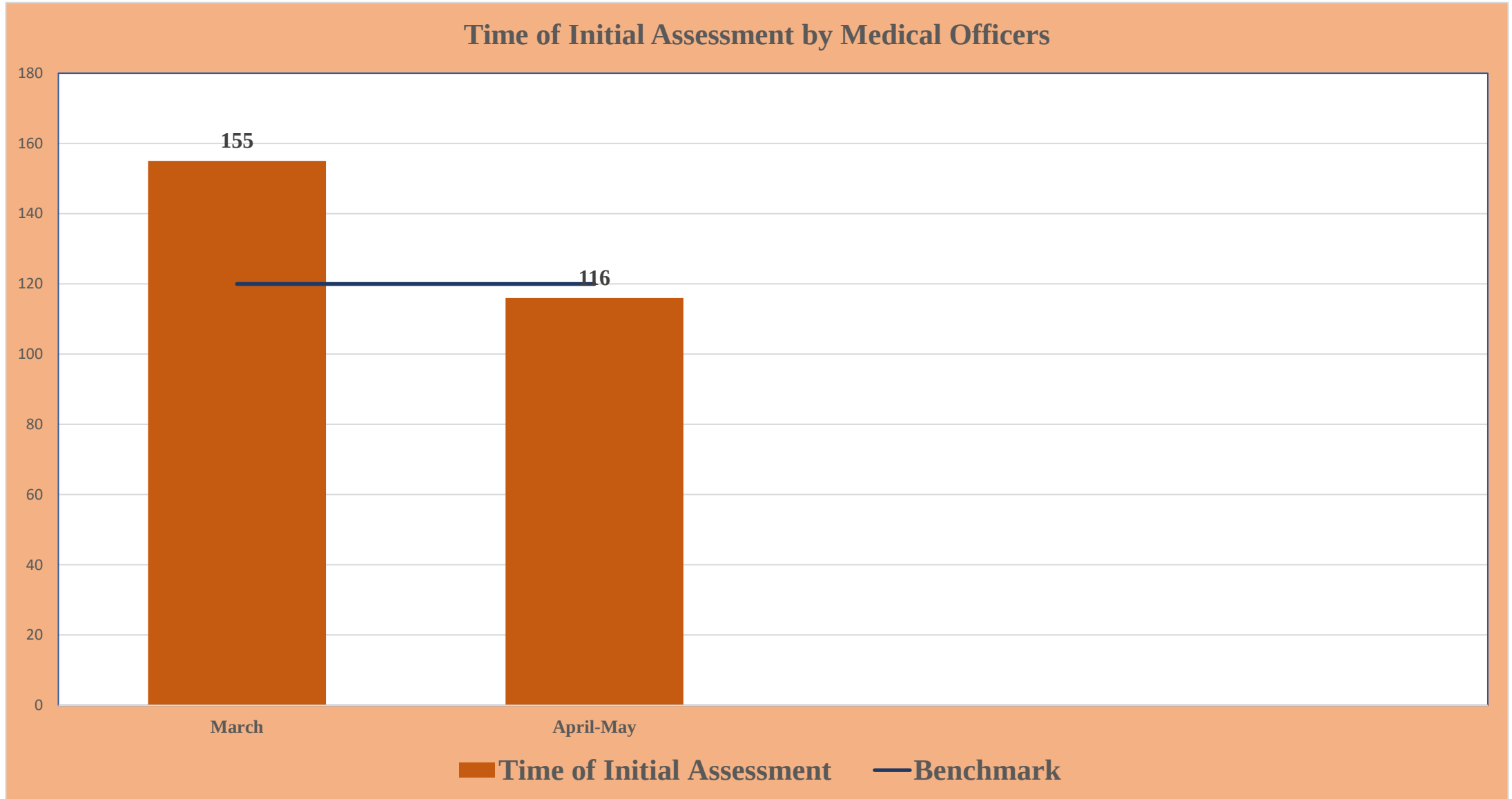


Overall, the time required for the first evaluation performed by medical officers in the inpatient departments was significantly decreased as a consequence of the effective implementation of these interventions.



The attainment of an average assessment time of 116 minutes not only reveals the possibility for continued improvement in the assessment process' efficiency, but also shows the usefulness of the interventions.

Comparative Analysis of Average Turn Around Time of Initial Assessment by Medical Officers (March-May)



Objective 5th - Identification of challenges and barriers encountered during the implementation of the intervention and suggestions on how to overcome them.

- **Word load and Time Constraints**
 - ✓ The workload and time constraints faced by medical officers present a challenge during the implementation of interventions to reduce initial assessment time. Due to frequent responsibilities and time restrictions, medical officers find it difficult to get aside enough time for timely assessment.
 - ✓ Medical officers sometimes have a tremendous schedule and several duties, making it difficult for them to set aside enough time for prompt examinations.

The following suggestions can help hospitals overcome this challenge:

Workflow Optimization: Eliminate unnecessary tasks and streamline workflow by evaluating and reorganizing existing processes. Reducing administrative burdens or reallocating non-essential duties to other healthcare professionals will allow medical officers to focus more on assessments.

Staffing Optimization: To ensure effective patient management, assess the staffing levels and make sure adequate resources are available. Redistributing workload among medical officers or hiring additional staff if necessary would alleviate time constraints and ensure adequate coverage.

Time Management Training: Training in effective time management should be provided to medical officers. In order to optimize their productivity, these strategies might include prioritizing tasks, setting realistic goals, and managing interruptions.

Delegation and Teamwork: Develop a collaborative environment in which medical officers can delegate certain tasks to other healthcare professionals, such as nurses or physician assistants.

Evaluation and Feedback: Create a feedback mechanism to learn more about the difficulties medical officers confront during the evaluation process.

- **Communication and Collaboration**

- ✓ Medical officers' communication and collaboration barriers present another difficulty when implementing interventions to shorten initial assessment times. Delays in acquiring the essential data for evaluation may result from ineffective teamwork and communication.

The suggestions that follow might be taken into consideration in order to get beyond this obstacle:

Standardization of Communication Protocols: To enable effective and clear information transmission among healthcare professionals participating in the evaluation process, consistent communication protocols and processes should be put in place.

Clear Responsibilities and Roles: Establish precise duties and responsibilities for each healthcare team member taking part in the evaluation process. This facilitates improved coordination and timely data collection by removing ambiguity and ensuring that everyone is aware of their duties.

Communication training: Training in efficient communication methods should be given to medical officers.

Continuous Feedback and Improvement: Create a feedback loop so that medical officers may share their thoughts on any communication issues they come across when doing assessments.

- **Documentation and Information Management:**

Initial assessments could take longer due to time-consuming paperwork processes and difficulties getting patient information.

- **Resistance to Change:**

Some medical officials could be unwilling to adopt new procedures or revisions to existing ones that might speed up evaluation times.

- **Staffing and Resource Availability:**

The timely completion of evaluations might be hampered by insufficient numbers of employees or a lack of resources.

- **Technological Challenges:**

Efficient evaluations may be hampered by technical problems or restrictions with electronic health record systems or other technological tools.

- **Workflow and Process Design:**

Initial evaluations may be delayed as a result of inefficient workflows or poorly structured processes.

Objective 6th - Recommend strategies for reducing the time of initial assessment by medical officers in inpatient departments.

- **Effective Triage Process:**

Implement a dependable triage system that quickly groups patients based on how serious their diseases are. This guarantees timely treatment and helps identify those who need urgent examination first.

- **Simplified admissions process:**

Simplify the admission process to cut down on delays when moving patients from the ER or other units to the inpatient area. Open channels of communication and efficient handover procedures help accelerate the procedure.

- **Appropriate Staffing:**

Make sure there are adequate staff members in the inpatient section, especially during the busiest admission periods. By effectively distributing medical officers to meet patient volume and acuity, first evaluation times can be cut down.

- **Application of Technology:**

Utilise it to improve the efficiency of the first assessment process. Improve communication between medical personnel by using electronic health records (EHRs) and other digital technologies to speed up patient information access and data collection.

- **Standardised Assessment Procedures:**

To be followed during the first assessment process, provide standardised assessment guidelines or suggestions. These protocols should outline the evaluation's pertinent components as well as completion dates. As a consequence, medical officers conduct assessments efficiently and consistently.

- **Collaboration Across Disciplines:**



Encourage the medical officers, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who took part in the initial assessment to collaborate across disciplines. Encourage teamwork and effective communication to reduce delays and speed up the process.

- **Systems for Effective Communication:**

Quick communication between medical officers, nurses, and other healthcare team members inside the inpatient department will be made possible by the establishment of effective communication technologies.

- **Process review and monitoring:**

To identify bottlenecks and possible development areas, regular process monitoring and assessment is necessary. Obtain feedback from patients and medical personnel to gain knowledge and implement the necessary modifications.

- **Constantly Improving Quality:**



By constantly examining and revising practises, policies, and procedures, you may create a culture of continuous quality improvement. Encourage medical professionals to share their ideas and recommendations to enhance the assessment procedure.



Conclusion



Based on the study titled "A Study on Time Taken for Initial Assessment of Inpatients by Medical Officers in Medanta Hospital Lucknow," the objective was to evaluate the time taken for medical officers to assess inpatients as well as factors contributing to delays.



Study results show that the average time for initial assessment was 155 minutes, which is significantly longer than the prescribed 120 minutes .



There were several factors contributing to the delay in initial assessment, including staffing and workload, communication difficulties, triage and prioritization issues, equipment and resource availability, documentation requirements, administrative procedures, organizational constraints, and medical officer training and competence.



These issues were addressed with several interventions in order to reduce the time spent on initial assessments. These initiatives included streamlining triage processes, implementing standardized assessment procedures, streamlining staffing and workflow, enhancing information accessibility through electronic health records, enhancing communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals, implementing point-of-care testing, educating and training medical officers, and promoting continuous quality improvement.



Thank
you!

