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## The New Frontier: Can Faculty be Consistent When Rating Clinical Skills Virtually?

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# The New Frontier: Can Faculty be Consistent When Rating Clinical Skills Virtually?

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## Introduction

Accreditation criteria mandate the evaluation of student technical skills. The emerging need for DPT programs to deliver course content remotely and subsequently assess student clinical skills highlights the lack of research surrounding faculty rating consistency when evaluations occur virtually.

## Purpose

This study aimed to investigate rating consistency among faculty testers when assessing clinical skills virtually.

## Methods



A convenience sample of 623 student practical scores across the DPT curriculum



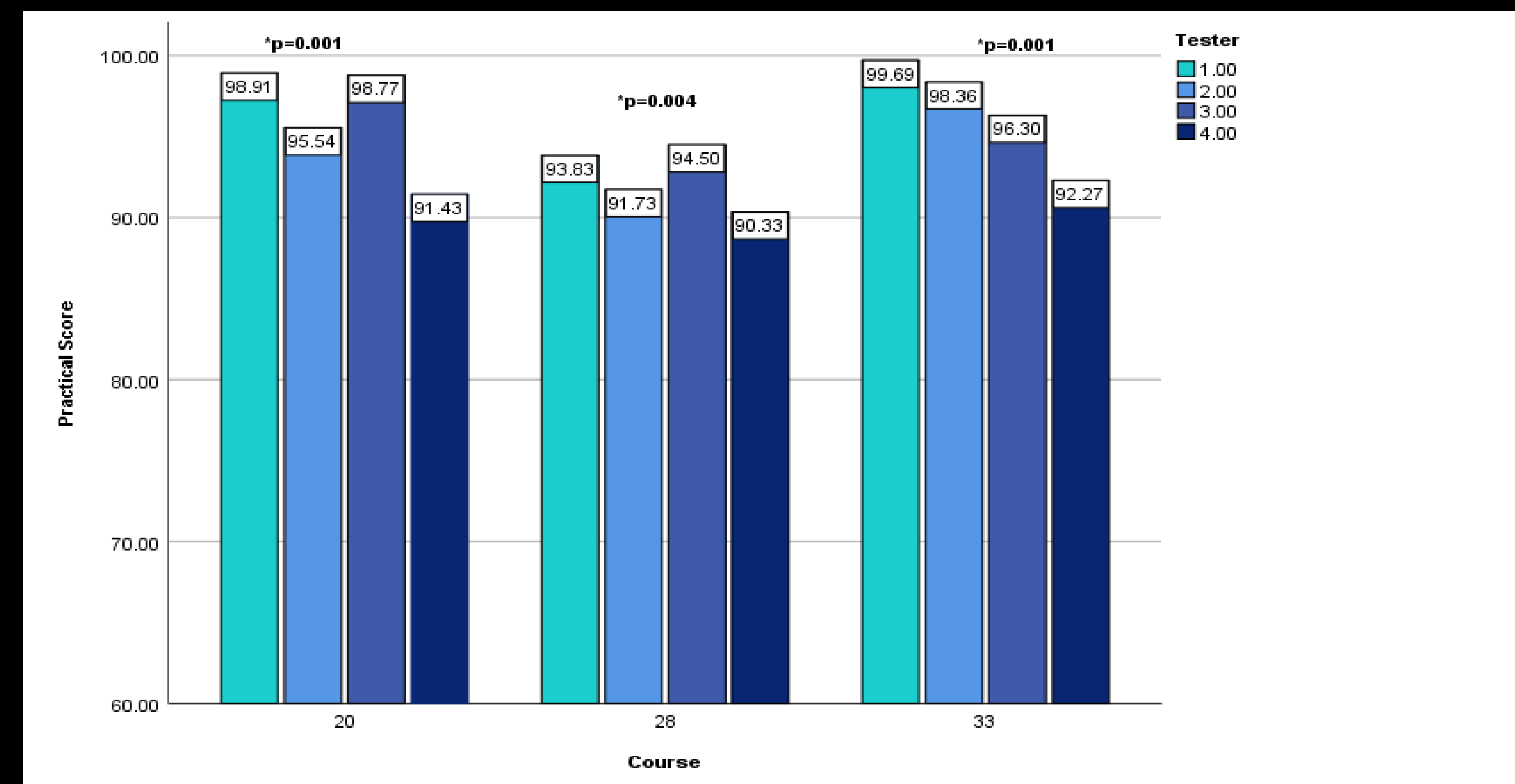
Faculty utilized checklist rubrics to evaluate students' case-based virtual practical performances



One-Way ANOVA and Post hoc analysis utilized to determine differences between faculty raters

## Results

- There were 4 to 7 faculty raters per course
- On average faculty tested 7 to 13 students
- Student virtual practical testing time varied 11-20 minutes (47.5%) 21-30 minutes (25.5%) 41-60 minutes (15%)



## Discussion

The recent COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for innovative virtual methods for testing technical skills taught in physical therapy programs. Assessing if consistency between faculty raters can be maintained in the virtual environment is essential in determining the effectiveness of this form of examination. The results of this study indicate that consistency appears to be better maintained earlier in the curriculum, the reason for this trend is unknown. Some difference in how faculty rated students could be attributed to the difference in the courses.

## Conclusion

Faculty rating of students' virtual skills performance were more consistent in the first year of the DPT curriculum. There is the possibility more faculty rating errors during the second year of the curriculum may have impacted how the students were rated. Even with the differences in faculty rating, virtual skills practicals may be an acceptable option for DPT programs.

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