

How to stimulate clinical reasoning among pre-clerkship medical students – a near peer led board game

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Introduction

Clinical reasoning is a key component of patient care. The aim of the study was to implement a near peer led board game aiming at training clinical reasoning skills among pre-clerkship medical students and measure its impact using self-perceptions.

Methods

Setting : Geneva Faculty of Medicine.

The near peer led board game:

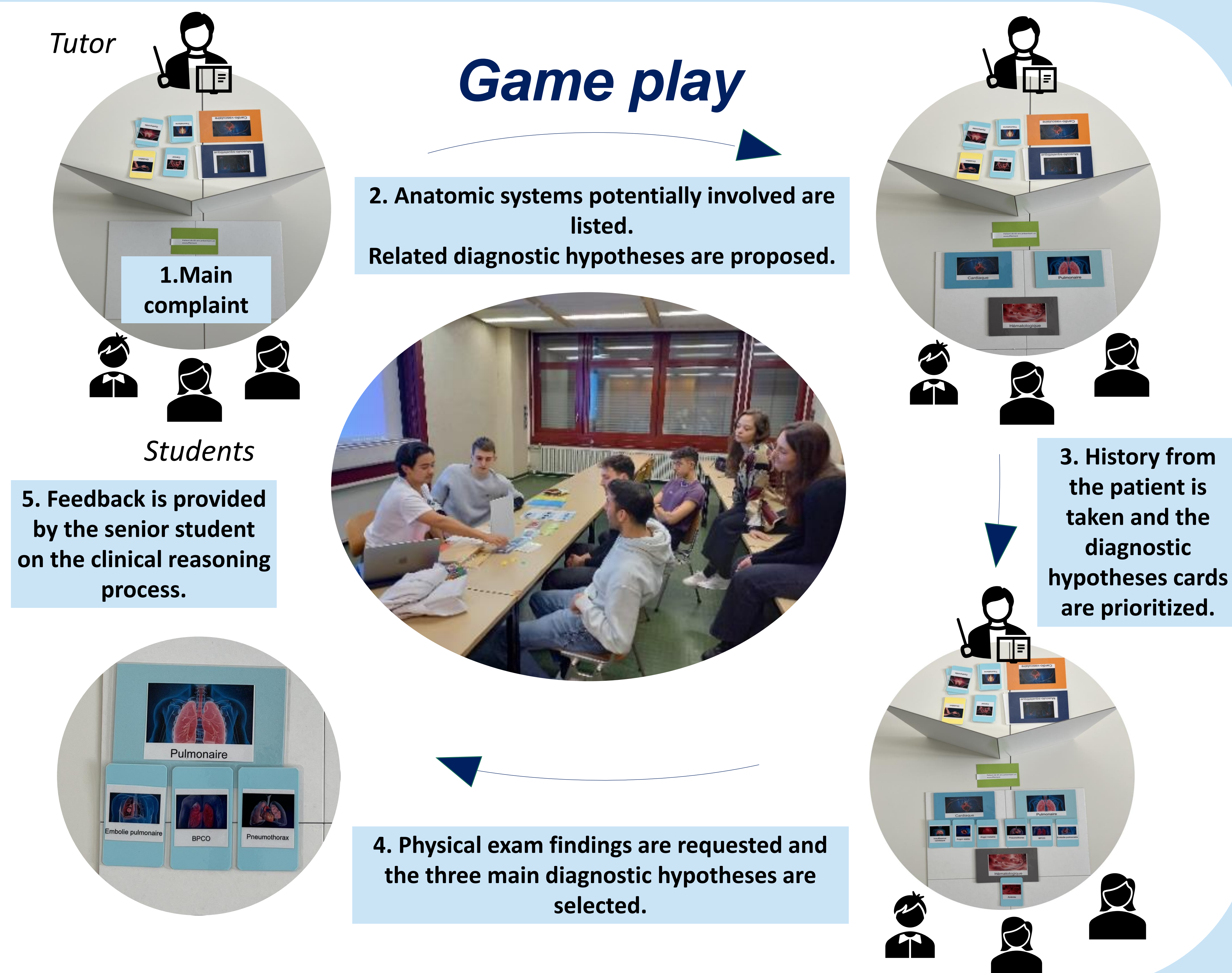
- A 2-hour collaborative game :
- three 3rd medical students
 - a senior student as game master and simulated patient.

Two scenarios:

- dyspnea-back pain
- abdominal-shoulder pain.

Outcomes measures :

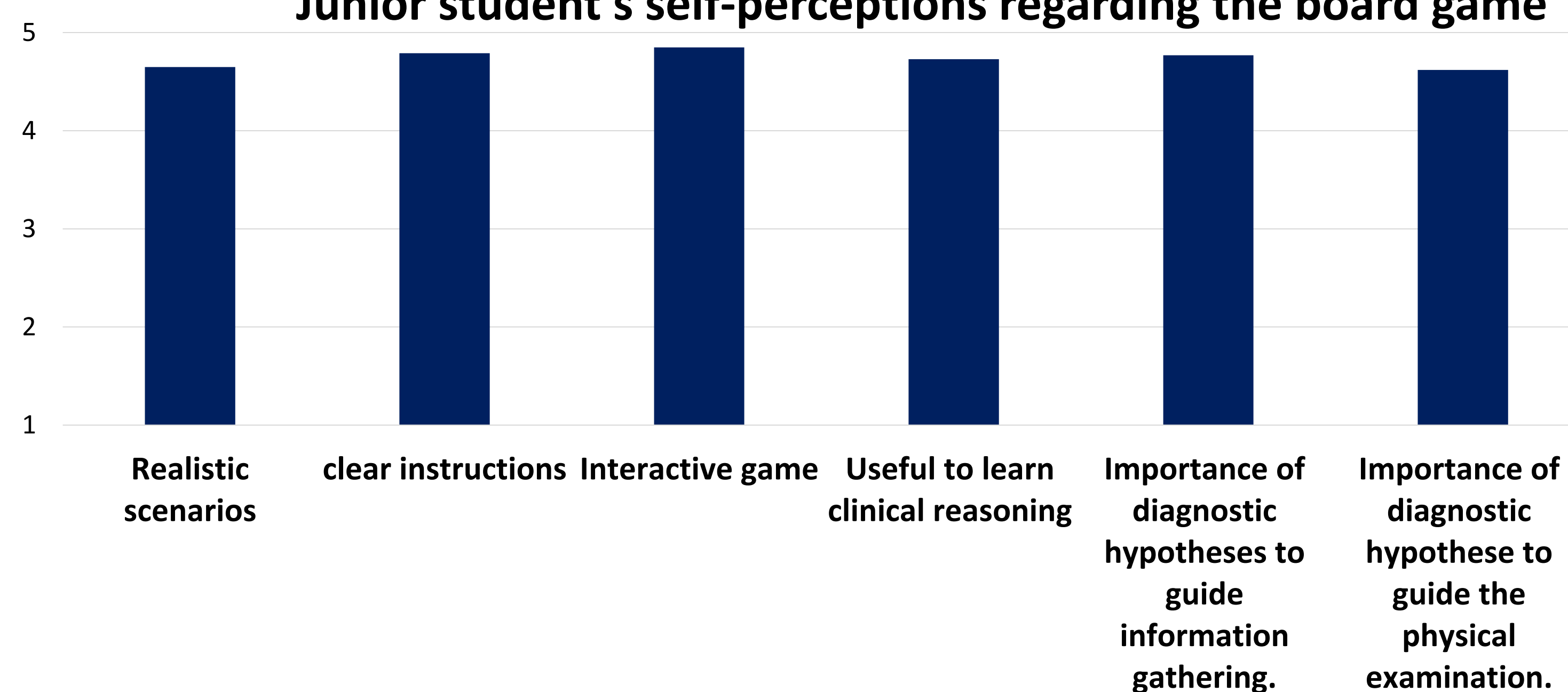
- Junior and student's self perceptions :
- quality of the game and its usefulness
- facilitation/feedback skills.



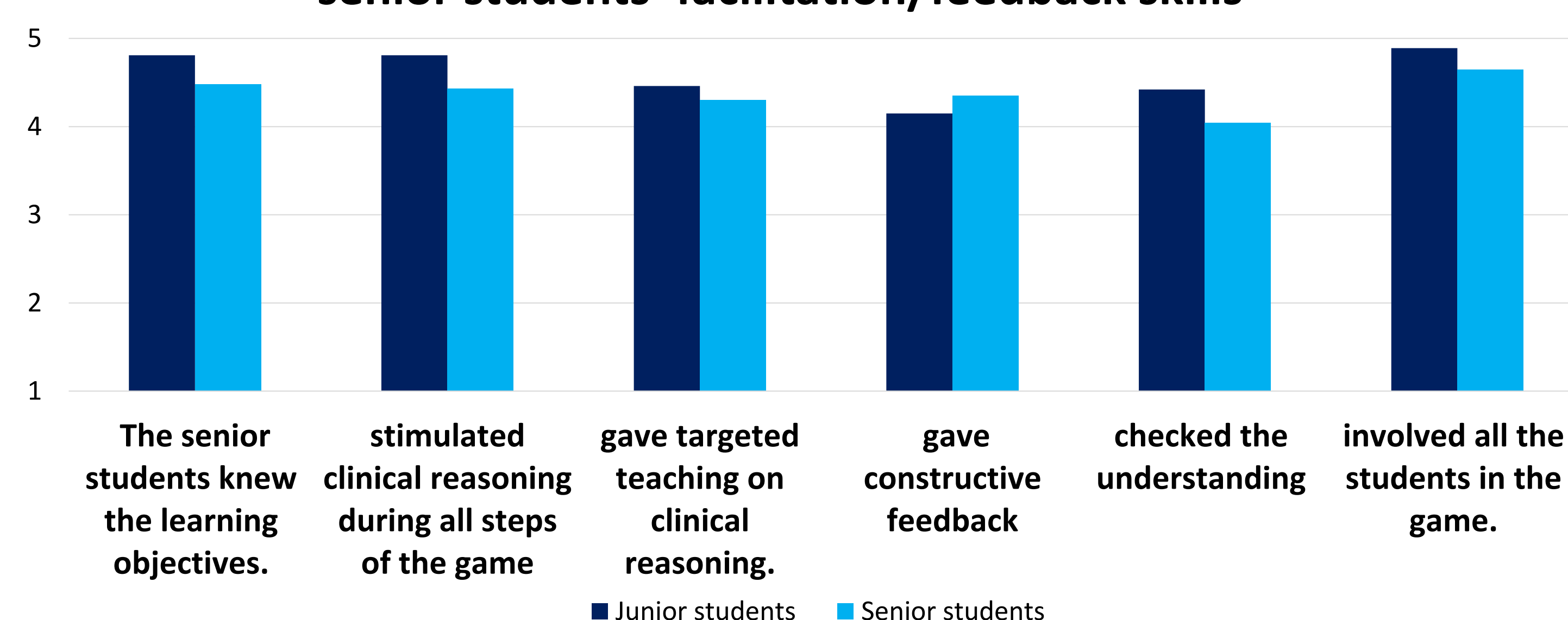
Results

The gaming sessions involved 84 junior students and 17 senior students in 2023, and 67 junior students and 17 senior students in 2024. Response rates to the online survey: 41% for junior students and 68% for senior students (Likert scale 1-5).

Junior student's self-perceptions regarding the board game



Junior and senior student's self-perceptions regarding senior students' facilitation/feedback skills



"I really enjoyed this exercise, which gave me a real insight into the diagnostic process, I would participate again !". (junior student)



Junior students

"Clinical reasoning based on symptoms, the whole process of reflection required to conduct an investigation." (junior student)

"The pleasure of sharing, exchanging, teaching, seeing how knowledge is developed, observing how students reason." (senior student)



Senior students

"I really enjoyed the interactive aspect and teaching students to reason. I would have loved to have taken part in this exercise during my bachelor years." (senior student)

Conclusion

Using a board game and involving near peer students to teach clinical reasoning skills is a promising way to stimulate pre-clerkship students to use clinical reasoning while interacting with patients.