

Preparation of nursing students for operating room exposure: A South African perspective

To the Editor: I read, with great interest, the article by Breedt and Labuschagne, entitled 'Preparation of nursing students for operating room exposure: A South African perspective.'^[1]

Although an interesting paper, it is a pity that the authors have elected to refer twice to learning retention figures by Edgar Dale: 'In Dale's cone of experience, people generally remember between 30% and 50% of what they see and hear'; and 'Dale postulated that learners remember only 20% of what they hear in a lecture, opposed to 80 - 90% if they simulate a real experience or perform a task.'^[2]

Unfortunately, the authors are incorrect. While Dale did produce a cone of experience, he did not mention these figures, or any figures similar to these, either in the text cited above or in any other text. The authors should have examined the text they are citing so that they could verify this information. If the authors would like more information with regard to the incorrect and inappropriate usage of Edgar Dale's cone of experience

in medical education literature, then they may wish to refer to my more detailed paper on the topic.^[3]

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1. Breedt S, Labuschagne MJ. Preparation of nursing students for operating room exposure: A South African perspective. *Afr J Health Professions Educ* 2019;11(1):22-26. <https://doi.org/10.7196/AJHPE.2019.v11i1.1072>
2. Dale E. *Audiovisual Methods in Teaching*. 3rd ed. New York, NY: Dryden Press, 1969.
3. Masters K. Edgar Dale's pyramid of learning in medical education: A literature review. *Med Teach* 2013;35(11):e1584-e1593. <https://doi.org/10.3109/0142159X.2013.800636>

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