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Group Reflection: Different interpretations the White Coat has on Patients

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Different interpretations the White Coat has on Patients

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Learning Community Group: Green 25



Professional Identity Reflection

In the article written by Kalet A, et al. they discuss five stages that could be used describe the process of identity formation. These stages are infancy / childhood, independent operator, team oriented, self-defined professional and finally self-transforming. As a group we felt these stages are a good representation of what we are currently going through during our time as medical students. We felt that our first year we were definitely in the independent operator stage since the whole year we were all focused on learning the course work and doing well on exams. However, as we have begun to learn more about the medical profession we have realized that medicine involves the interaction between a team. Thus, we felt that with our continual experience with group activities we are now in the team oriented stage. As we begin to have more experience in the realm of medicine, especially when we begin our rotations, we will be able to transition onto the self-defined professional. We believe this because we will finally be able to have real experience practicing medicine in fields we may be interested in. This will allow us to further define what type of medicine motivates us, and what fields we want to pursue. We will gradually continue to make decisions that help form our identity and soon enough reach the final stage of self-transforming.



White Coat Reflection

The second article ['Are Physician White Coats Becoming Obsolete](#) discussed how during the pre-pandemic times, physicians were becoming more relaxed on their attire such that they would not wear the white coat as often. During the pandemic, many physicians resorted to ditching the white coat out of fear of viral spread/contamination. Research has shown that individuals who wear a white coat are perceived as more professional as compared to to an individual who is not wearing a white coat. While the white coat can be intimidating to patients, patients do feel that the white coat symbolizes our professionalism and our knowledge. As medical students, we should be aware of the different interpretations/effects the white coat can have on our patients.

