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A Language-Discordant Simulation Built & Powered by AI

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The Problem

Clinicians regularly “get by”¹ without professional interpreters, even when one is available. This leads to more adverse events,² longer hospital stays,³ and lower comprehension.⁴ In-person role-reversals effectively teach cross-cultural communication, but demand extensive logistics and community volunteers.⁵

The Innovation

A 5-minute online simulation where clinicians become the patient. Two 60-second scenarios in an ED in Nepal or Korea, once without an interpreter, once with one. Experiencing the difference is the point. Built by a language access director using AI tools. No facilitators, standardized patients, or sim lab needed.

Methods

Deployed across 6 training cohorts (pediatric residents and students) at Cincinnati Children’s, Sept 2025 – Feb 2026. After each scenario, learners wrote reflections and rated their likelihood to change how they work with people who use a language other than English (5-point scale). 70 of 75 learners who started finished all stages (93%).

Limitations & Next Steps

Single site, self-reported intent, no control group. Next steps: measuring whether clinicians actually use interpreters more after training, and multi-site expansion.

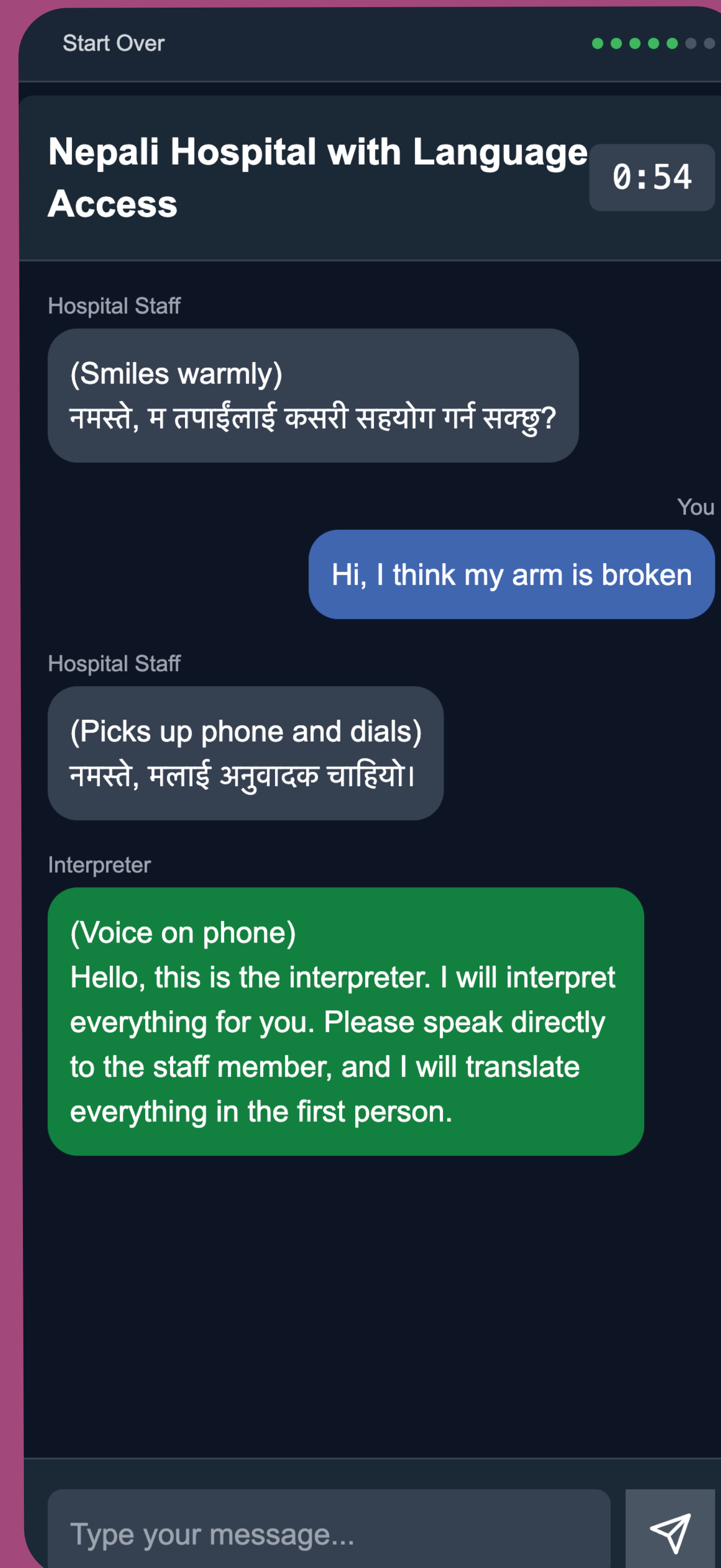
1. Diamond et al., 2009, *J Gen Intern Med*, 24:256–262.
2. Divi et al., 2007, *Int J Qual Health Care*, 19:60–67.
3. Lindholm et al., 2012, *J Gen Intern Med*, 27:1294–1299.
4. Karliner et al., 2007, *Health Serv Res*, 42:727–754.
5. Thew et al., 2012, *Acad Med*, 87:1496–1500.

What if every clinician could feel what your patients feel?

Without an Interpreter

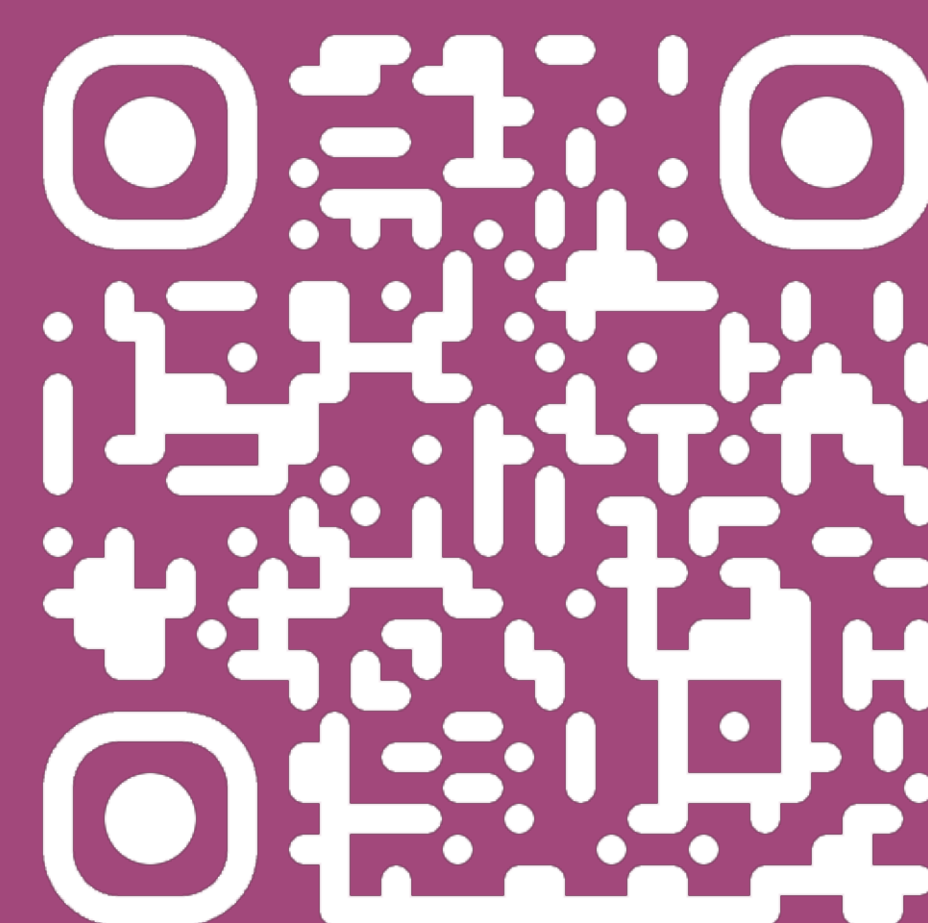


With an Interpreter



82% of learners said they'd change how they work with interpreters after this 5-minute simulation.

Try it yourself:



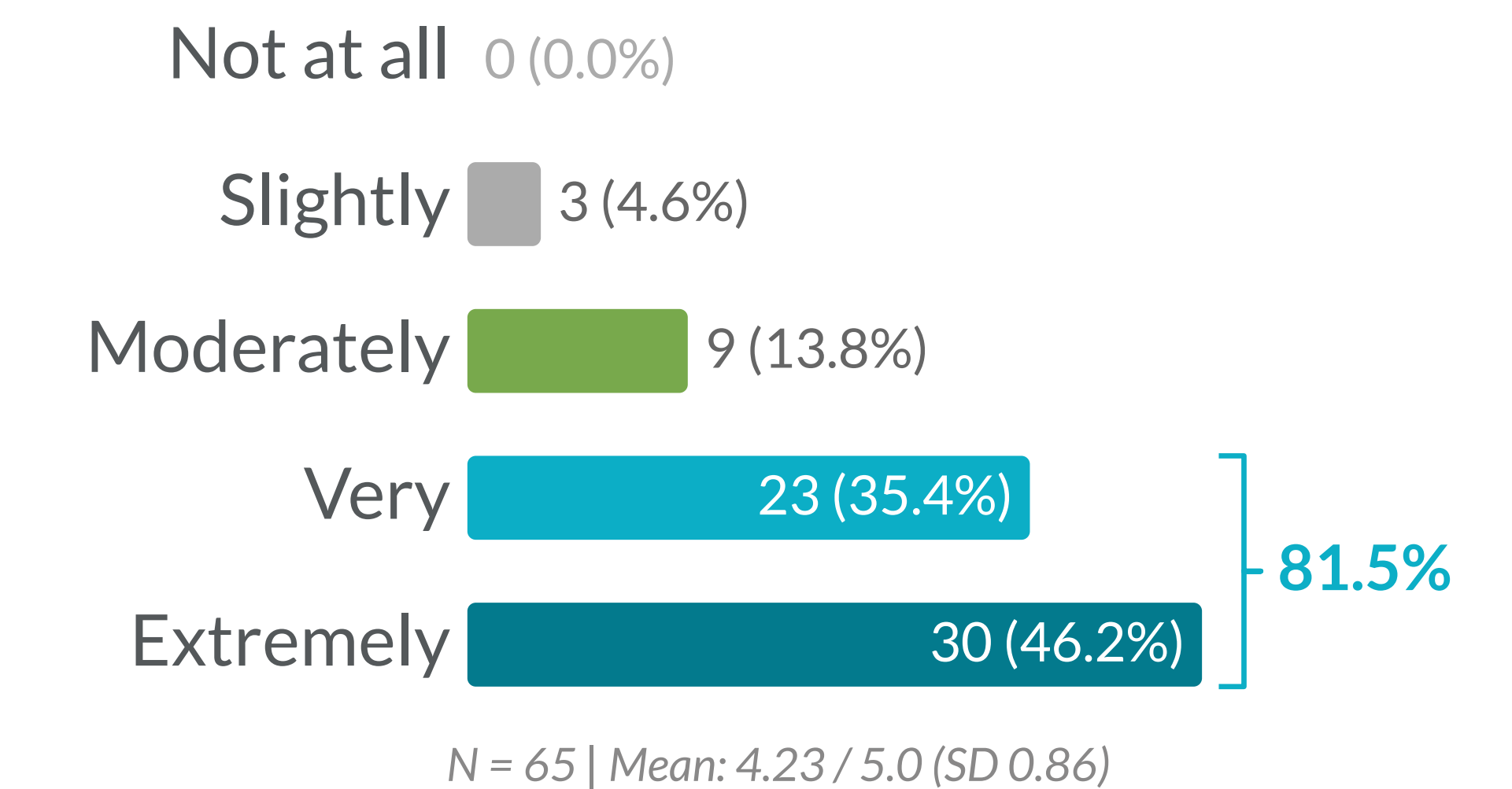
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How It Works



Likelihood to Change Practice



Vocabulary Shift in Reflections

	Without Interpreter	With Interpreter
Frustration words	54%	11%
Interpreter-value words	10%	54%

Learner reflection vocabulary shifted from frustration to recognizing interpreter value.

Learner Voices

“In every interaction, even if we think it’s small or basic, an interpreter is humanizing and important to use for non English speakers.”

“It helps see the difficulty that people feel in an environment not built for them. We take for granted the access to information because everything is in our known language.”