

KEY CONCEPTS

The power of a pause: wait times in questioning during debriefs

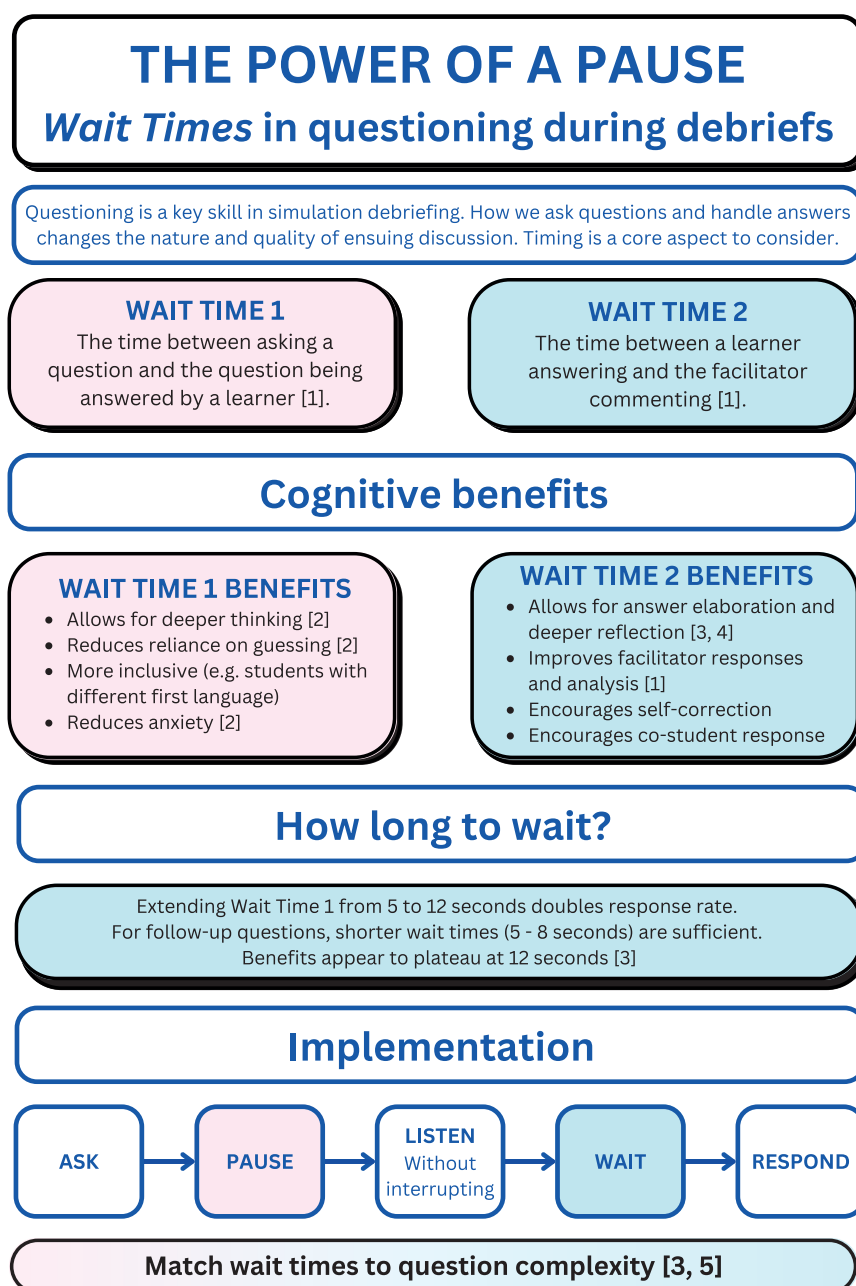
Matthew Bowker^{1,2}, Amy Younger^{1,2}

¹Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

²Newcastle University

Corresponding author: Matthew Bowker, m.bowker@ncl.ac.uk

<https://johs.org.uk/article/doi/10.54531/BXYE1571>



Submission Date: 14 March 2025

Accepted Date: 12 June 2025

Published Date: 01 August 2025

Declarations

Acknowledgements

The Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH) has supported the publication of this work through their fee waiver member benefit.

Authors' contributions

None declared.

Funding

None declared.

Availability of data and materials

None declared.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

None declared.

Competing interests

None declared.

References

1. Rowe MB. Wait time: slowing down may be a way of speeding up! *Journal of Teacher Education*. 1986;37(1):43–50. doi: [10.1177/002248718603700110](https://doi.org/10.1177/002248718603700110) (Original work published 1986)
2. Davis M, Denning K. Listening through the learning conversation: a thought provoking intervention. *MedEdPublish*. 2018;7(3).
3. Häusler J, Gartmeier M, Grünewald MG, Hapfelmeier A, Pfurtscheller T, Seidel T, et al. Too much time or not enough? An observational study of teacher wait time after questions in case-based seminars. *BMC Medical Education*. 2024 Jun 25;24(1).
4. Schneider JR, Sherman HB, Prystowsky JB, Schindler N, Darosa DA. Questioning skills: the effect of wait time on accuracy of medical student responses to oral and written questions. *Academic Medicine*. 2004 Oct;79(Supplement):S28–S31.
5. Barrett M, Magas CP, Gruppen LD, Dedhia PH, Sandhu G. It's worth the wait: optimizing questioning methods for effective intraoperative teaching. *ANZ Journal of Surgery*. 2017 Jun 7;87(7–8):541–546.