Assessing a PBLD for Medical Students on Pediatric Pain Management

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Introduction: The increasing attention on the assessment and treatment of pain highlights the need for greater education in these areas, especially in regard to children[1]. The purpose of this study was to assess the medical students' knowledge in pediatric pain management.

Method: After IRB approval, 3rd year medical students during their pediatric rotation participated in a pain management PBLD. Students completed a pre-test consisting of 10 MCQ (single response) assessing knowledge recognition/comprehension and a post-test consisting of 10 K-type questions (multiple response) assessing knowledge application[2]. Analysis was performed using paired t- and Fisher exact tests.

Results: Of the 87 students who have participated, 83 completed the pre-test and 86 the post-test. Table 1 contains test results. Group II and IV, with complete data sets, were compared.

Discussion: Pain management knowledge - recognition and comprehension - remained at consistently low level while it's application steadily improved among 3rd year medical students in this study An increased effort is needed for acquiring basic knowledge as well as developing clinical application[3].

References

1. JCAHO, 2003.
2. Medical Education. 2004; 38:974.
3. The American Surgeon. 2000; 66:470

Table 1

Medical Student Scores

Groups	n	Pre-Test Mean (±SD)	Post-Test Mean (±SD)	Pre-Test % Passed	Post-Test % Passed
I	17	6.9 (±1.1)	6.0 (±1.5)	65%	30%
II	26	6.5 (±1.3)	6.3 (±1.8)	50%	50%
III	18	6.8 (±1.7)	6.6 (±1.5)	61%	35%
IV	26	6.7 (±1.6)	7.2 (±1.4)	58%	77%
		p= 0.38*	p = 0.034*	p = 0.386**	p = 0.041**

*Paired t-test
**Fisher exact test