DOES PALLIATIVE CARE EDUCATION MATTER TO MEDICAL STUDENTS?

THE EXPERIENCE OF ATTENDING AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

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Undergraduate Palliative Care courses in Medical Degrees is a constant request of international institutions.

Effectiveness of PC and end of life care education show positive results.

There is a lack of information on acceptability and medical students’ experiences, that could encourage universities to adapt the curricula to the demographic and social necessities.
Explore and describe reactions and experience of medical students participating in Palliative Medicine courses through their reflective written comments at the end of the teaching.
METHOD

EXPLORATORY QUALITATIVE STUDY

OPTIONAL COURSES

2006/07 - 2007/08
2008/09 - 2009/10

316 students

- 45 hours of teaching
- Methods: lectures, workshops and clinical practice
- Evaluation: attendance of the classes, multiple-choice exam and a clinical case, and two days of clinical practice

Data collection: Written responses to the open questions
- How has been the experience of participating in this course of PM?
- What has been its contribution?

Analysis
- Concepts and meanings were explored looking for themes.
- Triangulated by three researchers.
RESULTS

Age: 20-23
72% ♀

Themes:

- help to became and act as a doctor: 33%
- practical teaching are essentials to learn PC: 36%
- makes reflect and grow: 13%
- open a new field of various knoledge: 11%
- holistic view and family care is also part of the medicine: 7%

Vigorous and positive expressions reffering the subject (58%)

n=280; (RRate 89%)
help to become and to act as a doctor

prepares one to be a physician

should be mandatory

it is a course that it is necessary to obtain a degree in medicine

“it is fundamental for a medical students as not only the theory and practice of PC is taught but also, one learns how to handle difficult situations, to give bad news, and to work in a team... all of which is useful to all types of doctors”.

n=92
RESULTS

n=19

holistic view and family care is also part of the medicine

our carrera lacks this holistic touch that PC makes to look

I have seen how important the family is, something that I had disregarded and isolated
RESULTS

Open a new field of knowledge
- opioid management
- spirituality
- teamwork
- management of difficult situations
- communication

Practice is essential
- n=102

n=31
makes one reflect and grow... gives you humanity

brings a doctor down to the ground and makes one understand what is the true purpose of a doctor: to be at the patient’s side, always

...it is a very important course, given that it brings out ones more humane side...

n= 35
RESULTS

great meaning in their expressions to pc

stimulating!
revealing!
useful!

great learning!

enjoyable!!

thank you

n = 162
The human and holistic features of a PM course surprised the students.

Students perceived that the PM course improves their vision of medicine because:
- What they have learnt is applicable to all types of patients
- Prepares them to work better as professionals

Participants recommend the PM course for all undergraduate students as a mandatory component of the curricula.
The ATLANTES team...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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