Information-seeking Practices of Senior Medical Students: The Impact of an Evidence-based Medicine Training Programme

NM Lai\textsuperscript{1}, S Nalliah\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University, Sunway Campus, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
\textsuperscript{2}International Medical University, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

\textit{Published:} April 2010

Lai NM, Nalliah S

Information-seeking Practices of Senior Medical Students: The Impact of an Evidence-based Medicine Training Programme

\textit{Education for Health}, Volume 23, issue 1, 2010

Available from: http://www.educationforhealth.net/

\textbf{ABSTRACT}

\textbf{Context:} The practice of Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) involves physicians regularly accessing and appraising clinical information. Few prior studies have assessed the information-seeking behaviours of medical undergraduates. At the International Medical University (IMU), Malaysia, senior medical students receive clinically-integrated EBM training to facilitate their future practice of EBM.

\textbf{Objectives:} We assessed whether EBM training in the final six months of medical training changes our students’ information-seeking practices and their confidence in understanding and appraising clinical evidence.

\textbf{Methods:} Between September 2005 and February 2006, self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 65 senior medical students at the beginning and again at the end of their clerkship training during which there was a clinically-integrated EBM curriculum. The questionnaires covered the topics of their preferred sources of clinical information, online search frequencies, estimated time to retrieve an abstract, and their understanding and confidence in their critical appraisal skills.

\textbf{Findings:} Sixty-four (98\%) students completed the initial survey and 63 (97\%) completed the follow-up survey. The majority indicated that they preferred to first consult another individual (colleagues, lecturers, hospital staff) for their clinical queries (60.9\%...
3. How fast are you able to trace the abstract of an article that/close to that you have in mind? (please mark)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Could never trace</th>
<th>&gt; 1 hour</th>
<th>30 minutes to 1 hour</th>
<th>10 to 30 minutes</th>
<th>&lt; 10 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4. In general, how well do you understand journal articles that you have read? (please mark)

- Have not a clue
- Understand only partially even with help from others
- Understand sufficiently with help from others
- Understand sufficiently without any help

5. How confident are you in critically appraising a journal article? (please mark)

- Have not a clue about critical appraisal
- Can start but need a lot of guidance in appraising all types of study
  - Familiar with appraising only certain types of study
  - Confident in appraising all common types of study