Gender knowledge in medicine: still a long way to go!

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Background:
In clinical practice gender differences are often not adequately considered leading to suboptimal treatment in a variety of diseases1.

Summary of work:
Gender knowledge was assessed using a 19 MCQs based gender quiz at the German medical faculties of Muenster (M) and Duisburg-Essen (DE) involving medical students, physicians and scientists of different educational / professional levels. This study is intended to serve as a needs analysis according to Kern2 for future integration of gender aspects in medical curricular.

Results 1:
In total 1448 medical students (64.0 % female) and 605 physicians/scientists (49.9 % female) took part in the survey. Overall only about half of the questions were answered correctly with no differences between students and professionals (students: 52.5 %; physicians/scientists 51.9 % correct answers) and no difference between sites (M, DE).

Results 2:
Physicians reached significantly higher scores compared to scientist (56.8 % vs. 44.8 %, p < 0.05).

Results 3:
Students’ gender knowledge increased with increasing academic year up to 59.1 % in final year students.

Conclusions:
This study clearly demonstrates a deficiency in gender knowledge in medical students and physicians / scientists. Therefore, gender aspects have to become integral part of medical undergraduate curricular.

References:

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