

EVALUATING POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION OF THE DOCTORS WHO WORKED IN SURGERY UNITS IN TURKEY: A COMPARATIVE TRIAL

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate the postgraduate condition of the doctors who worked in surgery units of state and university hospitals in our country. A total of 6 hospitals including 3 university and 3 state hospitals participated in this study. The condition of postgraduate education of the doctors was evaluated with a mini questionnaire. University and state hospitals were categorized as group 1 and 2; respectively. A total of 100 doctors including 51 from university and 49 from state hospital enrolled in this study. The median number of annual attended congress, the range of regular journal follow and the mean number of regular followed journals was statistically better group 1 than group 2. Program was assessed as sufficient for 56 % in group 1, while none for 100% in group 2. Postgraduate education is so important for the doctors in terms of following recent developments in their treatment approaches. Unfortunately, it is notable that there is a significant difference between university and state hospitals with regard of this situation in Turkey.

Keywords: evaluating, postgraduate education, Turkey

INTRODUCTION

Today, technology is advancing rapidly. Medical sciences at the existing information is updated in parallel. Employees in this area and particularly physicians are vital importance to follow these developments. But in daily practice, especially for those working outside of educational institutions is

not the case. This assumption is based on observations but, it should be presented as scientific. Be planned so that needs to be done. This study was conducted to evaluate the postgraduate condition of the doctors who worked in surgery units of state and university hospitals in our country. Particularly same examines in education progress has been done in different countries (Freiman et al., 2006; Mortensen et al., 2010; Hadley, Wall and Khan, 2007; Chew and Chee, 2005). However, had not been met an study like this in literature.

METHODS and PROCEDURES

A total of 6 hospitals' surgical clinics including 3 university (Mersin University Medical Faculty, Balıkesir University Medical Faculty, Adnan Menderes Medical Faculty) and 3 state hospitals (Karsiyaka State Hospital, Konya Bozkir State Hospital, Antakya State Hospital) participated in this study. The condition of postgraduate education of the doctors was evaluated with a mini questionnaire which was shown in table 1. University and state hospitals were categorized as group 1 and 2; respectively. Numerical data were presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and categorical data were expressed as number and percent (%). Statistical significance was set at $p < .05$.

Table 1: Questionnaire.

Name
Age/Gender
Affiliation
How many journals do you follow regularly?
How many congresses do you attend annually?
When did you receive a postgraduate education program recently?
When did you prepare a scientific paper recently?
How do you aware of latest developments?
How and how often postgraduate education program should be?
Do you aware of latest developments about your field regularly?
Is postgraduate education program sufficient?
When did you read a text book about your field recently?
How often do you read scientific papers in internet?
Do you think that you apply current treatment approaches?
Is your knowledge about your field sufficient?

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

A total of 100 doctors including 51 from university and 49 from state hospital enrolled in this study. They including 61 general surgeons, 13 neurosurgeons, 11 obstetricians, 8 orthopedists and 7 chest surgeons. Group 1 included 32 male, 19 female doctors with a median age of $40,6 \pm 6,2$ years, while 28

male, 21 female doctors with a median age of $43,9 \pm 5,9$ in group 2. The mean time of worked as specialist were $9,3 \pm 6,2$ years, $12,8 \pm 6,6$ years in group 1 and 2, respectively. The median number of annual attended congress was 3 (1-6) in group 1 and 1(0-2) in group 2 ($p < .05$). The range of regular journal follow was 100% in group 1, whereas 71% in group 2 ($p < .05$). The mean number of regular followed journals was 5 (2-11) in group 1, while 1 (0-4) in group 2 ($p < .05$). The mean time of recent prepared scientific papers was stated as $4,7 \pm 4,2$ (1-18) months in group 1 and $37,5 \pm 39,8$ (3-144) months in group 2 ($p < .05$). The average time of recent attended postgraduate program was $2,2 \pm 1,9$ (1-8) years and $3,4 \pm 2,2$ years (1-10) in group 1 and 2, respectively ($p = .313$). Program was assessed as sufficient for 56 % in group 1, while none for 100% in group 2 ($p < .05$).

Postgraduate education is so important for the doctors in terms of following recent developments in their treatment approaches. Unfortunately, it is notable that there is a significant difference between university and state hospitals with regard of this situation in Turkey. The difference between university and state hospitals are normal. But this difference is too much. That is the real problem. This may be interpreted as to be the cause of personal preferences and/or lack of content in postgraduate education program. Doctors working in university hospitals are motivated by a better for scientific productivity and recent developments. This is normal. Because often there is an academic expectations and academic competition. However, there is no this type a source of motivation at public hospitals. Hence, we think that the doctors in state hospitals should be encouraged in order to e-gain their scientific interest by enhancing the frequency of enriched postgraduate education programs. Otherwise, this case can cause serious consequences in the long term. Because most of the health service are covered by state hospitals in Turkey. Various assessments has been done for same problems in different countries (Freiman et al. 2006; Mortensen et al., 2010; Hadley, Wall, and Khan, 2007; Chew and Chee, 2005; Malling et al., 2010). These his researchments will likely become more evident to trainees as faculty become increasingly aware of them. Various algoritmas and amendements has been recomended in education progress (Mortensen et al., 2010; Harden, 2006; Card, Snell, and O'Brien, 2006). Also board examinations are used for this aim in some countries (Freiman et al. 2006; Griffiths, 2006; Chen et al., 2006). Besides the various rewarding manners, similar enforcement "Board Examinations" can be used in our country.

CONCLUSIONS

There are serius difference between doctors working in the university and state hospitals in terms of following recent developments in their treatment approaches. If not corrected this problem seriously reduce the quality of health care in a long term.

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