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Enterostomal Therapists:

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Bologna, 12-15 June 2011

FINAL PROGRAM

POSTER SESSION

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WOUND EDUCATION IN PORTUGAL: UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN HEALTH EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Patients with wounds require daily health services, seeking expert help from professionals. Good practice in the treatment of wounds relates to solid education and constant knowledge updating. It is required for health professional's technical-scientific knowledge to address all the needs of patients with wounds.

OBJECTIVES

This research aimed to investigate the undergraduate training on prevention and treatment of wounds of health courses in Portugal, namely, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacy and Podiatry.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We developed a quantitative framework to study through a questionnaire in education on wounds, sent to 72 Higher Education institutions authorized to teach these courses in Portugal, during the period 20 October 2009 to May 31, 2010. The questionnaire inquired about the units, number of teaching hours, teaching strategies, teachers responsible, as details about the content covered in their curricula.

RESULTS

The response rate was 81.94% (n = 59), the results indicate that the number of hours devoted to teaching wounds, a median of 24.75 (13.50 to 24.75) hours, included in the total time for pre-graduate education courses studied. Difference was found statistically significant in total hours related to the theme of the wounds between the nursing course and the course of pharmacy (p < 0.001) and a trend with the course of pharmaceutical sciences (p = 0,096).

CONCLUSIONS

There is a deficit in pre-graduate training, the teaching is mainly theoretical and the contents taught are insufficient. We suggest changes to the curricula of courses such as increasing the number of hours, more practical and promoting research in the area. This study thus provides a unique exploration of education in Portugal in wounds, which can serve as a basis for the development of education strategies in this area.