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WOUND EDUCATION: UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN HEALTH EDUCATION

Paulo Alves¹.

¹ICS, UCP, Health Sciences Institute, Porto, Catholic University of Portugal (Porto, Portugal)

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. The clinical evaluation of patients with wound warrants a holistic approach, ie assessing the overall state of the individual and of a correct etiological diagnosis for the choice of adequate therapeutic option.

All this process necessarily involves a multidisciplinary team that lacks proper training. 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.

To this purpose, we developed a quantitative framework to study through a questionnaire in education on wounds, sent to 71 institutions authorized to teach these courses in Portugal, with 59 being returned. In this questionnaire inquired about the units, the number of teaching hours, teaching strategies, teachers responsible, as well as details about the content covered in their curricula.

The results indicate that there is a deficit of undergraduate training when compared with international guidelines, the number of hours of wound teaching is minimal, the teaching is mostly theoretical, and the contents taught are insufficient. We suggested changes to the curricula such as increasing the number of hours taught, a greater practical component and stimulating 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.