

Knowledge Analysis of Medical Students about Emergency Medicine as a Medical Specialty and Specific Residency: A Brazilian Medical Education Context

Lucas Loiola Ponte Albuquerque Ribeiro*

Universidade de Fortaleza (UNIFOR), Fortaleza, CE, Brazil

***Corresponding Author:** Lucas Loiola Ponte Albuquerque Ribeiro, Universidade de Fortaleza (UNIFOR), Fortaleza, CE, Brazil.

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Abstract

Introduction: In Brazil, the residency in emergency medicine was established in 1996 in Porto Alegre, 20 years after the medical residency was formalized as a postgraduate modality. Worldwide, this specialty is one of the most recognized ones, today by more than 60 countries. The emergency physician reduces mortality, costs and overcrowding, makes safe decisions and minimizes ethical processes, demonstrating the importance of essential skills, competencies, and attitudes in different urgency and emergency scenarios. Most Brazilian universities do not have teaching programs in the curriculum. Therefore, there is a need for an urgent and obligatory structuring of the teaching of the subject in medical graduation; Greater contact with the service and greater focus within the college should be considered to improve academic understanding.

Objectives: To analyze the knowledge of medical students about emergency medicine as a medical specialty and residency apart.

Methodology: Cross-sectional descriptive study based on the results of an online questionnaire applied, through the Google Forms tool, to medical students from Brazil. Data were analyzed by the Microsoft Excel program, totaling 220 answers, with the Informed Consent Form (ICF) being used and accepted.

Results: Of the academics, 60.9% study in the northeast Brazil, 15% in the south, 9.5% in the north, 9.1% in the southeast, 5.5% in the midwest. 64.5% are from the private network. All semesters were represented, 16.8% of the 3rd, followed by the 5th - 13.8% and 8th - 12.7%. Regarding the time that the subject is approached, answers vary between one semester (32.7%), one year (24.1%), one and a half years (12.7%), two years (9.5%), over 2 years (13.2%) and never (7.7%). Of those who have already experienced, it was divided into practical classes/simulations (26.3%), first aid (22.9%), separate subject (22.7%) and class subject of other specialties (22.4%). Regarding extracurricular internships, 75.5% confirmed their existence, but only 23.6% said they participated. Knowledge, leadership, agility and reasoning stood out as important characteristics. 72.7% indicated interest in this specialty, and of these, 82.9% would opt for the adult part. Regarding the duration of this residency, 64% answered at least 2 years, 30% minimum 3 and 6% minimum 1. 78% state that there are no prerequisites for this residence. Given the data analysis, it was demonstrated good knowledge about the subject, even with practical experience not being a reality. This fact shows the importance of having greater contact with students, since the practice associated with interest would leave them technically and psychologically prepared to deal with this situation.

Conclusion: It is of utmost importance that academics have contact with the subjects related to emergency medicine during the course period, so that they can acquire preparation and knowledge to be able to deal with this routine situation, not only in hospital, but in daily life.

Keywords: *Medical Students; Emergency Medicine; Medical Specialty; Specific Residency*

Introduction

In Brazil, a residency in emergency medicine was established in 1996 by the Emergency Room Hospital of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul [1]. This occurred almost 20 years after the issuance of Decree No. 80,281, which officialized medical residency as a postgraduate teaching modality for doctors in the form of a specialization course [2].

Worldwide, emergency medicine is one of the largest medical specialties, being recognized today by over 60 countries [1]. In the United States alone, there are more than 160 emergency medicine residency programs, with more than 1,000 doctors trained each year [1].

As the worldwide literature shows, trained and qualified emergency physicians reduce mortality, costs and overcrowding and make safe decisions on admission and discharge criteria, as well as minimize the number of professional ethical processes arising from emergency care [1]. Thus, it is very important that the graduate of the medical course has a set of skills, competencies and attitudes that make them able to provide good care to patients in different scenarios of urgency and emergency, both traumatic and non-traumatic [3].

Despite the importance of the subject, most Brazilian universities do not have programs for teaching trauma and medical emergencies in the curriculum of the medical course [3]. Worldwide, there has been an increase in the prevalence of trauma cases and medical emergencies in hospitals, which can be attributed to the following reasons: longer population longevity, longer survival of patients with various diseases, higher number of car accidents and greater civil violence [3].

In this sense, medical students have less than expected knowledge about the operation of the pre-hospital emergency medical service (SAMU), regardless of the cycle (basic or clinical) they are in [4]. This lack of information can lead to a delay in the activation of emergency medical services and contribute to an unfavorable clinical outcome, requiring further debate on the subject throughout the course [4,5].

There is no doubt about the need for urgent and compulsory structuring of traumatic and non-traumatic urgency and emergency teaching in medical undergraduate programs in all schools in Brazil [4]. Greater student contact with the service and greater focus on medical emergency within the college should be considered to achieve better understanding among students [5,6].

Given this, this paper seeks to verify and analyze the knowledge of medical students about emergency medicine as a medical specialty and residency apart for possible interventions by the course coordinators and academic centers in order to broaden the student's contact with this subject. theme so important to your medical background [7,8].

Objectives of the Study

To analyze the knowledge of medical students about emergency medicine as a medical specialty and residency apart.

Methodology

This is a descriptive cross-sectional study with an online questionnaire, through the Google Forms tool, aimed at medical students in Brazil. Questions were analyzed, primarily with the objective of epidemiologically conceptualizing the participants and, afterwards, characterizing several relevant aspects regarding the knowledge of emergency medicine as a medical specialty.

The data obtained was collected, processed and analyzed using graphs and tables using the Microsoft Excel® program. The questionnaire totaled 220 answers, with the Informed Consent Form (ICF) and ethics on research being used, with all participants accepting it.

Results and Discussion

In the present study, 220 answers were obtained through the online questionnaire. Of the individuals participating in the research, 134 (60.9%) studied medicine in the northeast of the country, 33 (15%) in the southern region, 21 (9.5%) in northern Brazil, 20 (9.1%) in the southeast, and only 12 (5.5%) in the Brazilian midwest.

The vast majority of respondents are private students (64.5%), with only 78 of the individuals who answered the questionnaire attending public universities or faculties.

Regarding the period of college attended, answers were received by students from all semesters of medicine, including graduates (2.3%). The largest portion was individuals who are in the third semester of the course (16.8%) and the smallest was students from the last medical period (1.8%).

In the context of how long the subject of Emergency Medicine has been approached in medical school, respondents varied between one semester (32.7%), one year (24.1%), one and a half years (12.7%), 2 years (9.5%), more than 2 years (13.2%) and some pointed out that the subject is never seen during the course (7.7%).

Among the individuals who had the subject of Emergency discussed in the classroom, the vast majority divided the types of approach of the theme into practical classes/simulations (26.3%), first aid (22.9%), Urgency and Emergency Medicine (22.7%) and theme of classes of other specialties (22.4%).

Regarding the availability of emergency extracurricular internships, 166 answers were obtained confirming the existence of these activities during the undergraduate period, but only 51 individuals claim to have participated in the internships.

To investigate the interest of students in Emergency Medicine, they were asked if they have an interest in specializing in the area, 72.7% of respondents answered positively to the question, and among them, 82.9% said they opted for Emergency Medicine in Adults and the remainder (17.1%) by pediatric.

Still regarding the specialization in Emergency, the respondents were asked about the length of residence in this area of medicine in Brazil, 141 people answered that it was at least 2 years (64%), 65 said it is at least 3 years (30%) and only 14 say it is at least 1 year to be an emergency (6%). In addition, 78% of respondents state that there are no prerequisites to be a resident in Emergency Medicine [6].

Given the general analysis of the observed data, medical students, in general on Brazil, demonstrated to have a good knowledge about Emergency Medicine as a medical specialty, even though practical experience is not such a reality during graduation and even the vast majority participants not belonging to the clinical cycle. This fact shows the importance of having greater contact of these students with this specialty, since the practice associated with the interest shown by the vast majority in this area would make the student much more prepared, technically and psychologically to deal with a situation. of emergency [7,8].

Conclusion

To conclude, through this work, we could not only identify the importance of the emergency medicine as a medical specialty to promptly recognize and resolve such common situations as stroke, acute myocardial infarction, among many other emergency situations that patients suffer daily; We also recognized the level of knowledge and preparation of medical students who participated in the work [8].

This level was better than expected, considering that students have a good knowledge about the specialty of emergency medicine, considering that the answers obtained in the applied questionnaire (Google Forms) have a good theoretical basis and, analyzing through From a general perspective, the answers about the knowledge about the analyzed specialty approached the previously prepared feedback.

Therefore, we can conclude that it is of paramount importance that medical students have sufficient contact with emergency medicine issues during the course period so that they can gain preparedness and knowledge to deal with an emergency situation they may face, not only on hospital shifts, but throughout your day.

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