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Stage 4: Review abstract submission

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|------------------------|--|
| Consider for: | Short Communication |
| Title of paper: | Comparison of medical students' learning approaches in a traditional versus integrated lecture-based curricula. |
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| Abstract: | <p>Background</p> <p>Students' learning approaches can be influenced by the teaching and assessment characteristics of curricula. In many European countries, political constraints oblige medical schools to select students during the first study year. Because of the large number of students, the teaching environments are often lecture-based and assessments anchored on factual knowledge through highly selective MCQ tests. This could impact the deep learning approach necessary to develop clinical reasoning.</p> <p>Summary of work</p> <p>We compared first-year students' learning approaches in two French-speaking learning environments (Geneva G and Lyon L), offering similar teaching (lectures) and assessment (MCQ) formats, but displaying different curriculum organization (G thematic integrated modules vs L traditional). The study process questionnaire (R-SPQ) was administered to 1947 first-year medical students (1654 in L, 293 in Geneva). Multivariate general linear models were conducted to compare deep-(DA) and surface-(SA) approaches to learning in both environments.</p> <p>Summary of results</p> <p>Compared to L-students (DA 2.91, SA 2.49 on a scale of 5), G-students used deeper and less surface approaches (DA 3.20, SA 2.35, $p < 0.001$). L-students focused more on the target (L 3.37, G 3.26, $p < 0.05$) and applied more rote learning (L 2.36, G 2.01, $p < 0.001$).</p> |

Conclusions

Despite lecture-based and MCQ-assessed, an integrated curriculum seems to favor students' deep learning approaches, compared to a traditional curriculum.

Take-home message

An integrated selection-year curriculum might partly compensate the potentially detrimental influence of lecture-based teaching and factual assessment on students' approaches to learning.

Keywords:

22. Curriculum: Education environment
24. Curriculum: Integration
68. Medical education: Undergraduate education
86. Students/Trainees: Study / learning styles
108. Teaching & learning: Lectures/large groups

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