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PERCEPTIONS OF PHYSICIANS, MEDICAL AND NURSING STUDENTS CONCERNING SHARED DECISION-MAKING: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Background

- **Shared decision-making (SDM)** is an essential factor in attaining a patient-centered health care.
- The **process** of integrating
 - ✓ Best available evidence
 - ✓ Knowledge, preferences and values of patient and provider
- **Benefits** of implementation such as
 - ✓ Improvement of patient-relevant outcomes
 - ✓ Decrease in costs
 - ✓ Reduction of health inequalities
 - ✓ Empowerment of patients
- Lagging adoption at level of **health care providers**.
- Research regarding the **attitudes** of providers and students in various countries is **scarce**.
- Main **objective** to evaluate and compare the sharing attitudes of physicians, medical and nursing students in Flanders (Belgium).

Methods

A **cross sectional study** was conducted between June through September 2017.

- **Patient-Practitioner Orientation Scale (PPOS)**
 - ✓ Six-point Likert scale
 - ✓ Forward translation English -> Dutch
 - ✓ Known groups validation
 - ✓ Sharing subscale (α 0.70)
 - ✓ Demographic questionnaire
- **Inclusion criteria**
 - ✓ Third year Master of Science in Medicine
 - ✓ Master of Science in Nursing
 - ✓ Physicians
- **Data analysis**
 - ✓ Independent t-tests
 - ✓ One and two way analysis of variance
 - ✓ Multivariable linear regression model

Results

- **Total of 266 respondents**
 - ✓ Physicians (n=93; $4,24 \pm 0,64$)
 - ✓ Medical students (n=147; $4,30 \pm 0,61$)
 - ✓ Nursing students (n=26; $4,30 \pm 0,67$)
- **Multivariable regression**
 - ✓ Female sex ($p < 0,10$) and working in general practice or internal medicine ($p < 0,05$) predictive for higher sharing among physicians
- Difference ($p < 0,05$) based on physicians' **specialism**
 - ✓ Paediatrics ($4,79 \pm 0,69$)
 - ✓ Psychiatry ($4,74 \pm 0,47$)
 - ✓ Gynaecology/Obstetrics ($4,40 \pm 0,38$)
 - ✓ General Practice ($4,31 \pm 0,59$)
 - Significantly higher than Surgery ($3,84 \pm 0,58$)
- **No difference** between occupation, age, rank, preferred future specialisation.

Conclusion

Health care providers and students in Flanders are generally **less sharing** than samples from the US.

- Strong perception that the physician should **decide** and that the patient must rely on their **knowledge**.
- Important influence of **culture** on decision making.
- Sharing attitudes presumably decrease or increase due to exposure to the **clinical context**.
- Urgent need for health policy and educational institutions to facilitate a **supporting environment**.

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