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2D:4D DIGIT RATIO AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN MEDICAL STUDENTS OF IIUM

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The prenatal androgens has been proposed to directly influence the relative length of the second (index, 2D) to the fourth (ring, 4D) finger (2D:4D) and the brain development, future behavior (intelligence or learning-ability skills, abstract reasoning, highly competitive sports etc) and life choices. The academic performance in medical school is affected by many factors(cognitive ability, biological and psychological traits, and social status) and by partly from prenatal exposure to androgenic steroids. Many studies correlated the relationship between 2D:4D ratio and athletic performance but a few studies to academic performance which showed mixed results. OBJECTIVE: This study was to find out the average 2D:4D digit ratio of male and female Malay ethnic, to determine the correlation of 2D:4D ratio and academic performance during matriculation and to examine the correlation of 2D:4D ratio and academic performance in year one of first year medical students of International Islamic University Malaysia (Academic session 2012/13). METHODOLOGY/STUDY DESIGN: The 2D and 4D length of both hands of 137 first year medical students (42 male and 95 female) were measured with a vernier caliper, accuracy of 0.02mm. The CGPA of matriculation and mean of four end blocks examination of first year were calculated and Pearson correlation coefficient was measured between two variables, 2D:4D ratios of both hands and both sexes and CGPA of matriculation and mean first year four end blocks examinations. RESULTS: The means of left and right 2D:4D ratios are 0.9865 and 0.9699 in male and 0.9954 and 0.9944 in female students. Male and right hand have lower ratio than female students and left hand in both sexes. In male student, both left and right 2D:4D ratios are negatively correlated with CGPA of matriculation and mean first year examination marks. In female student, correlation is positive except between left 2D:4D ratio and mean first year mark which is negatively correlated. All correlations are low or weak correlations and statistically not significant except between left 2D:4D ratio and mean first year mark in female. CONCLUSION: The means of left and right 2D:4D ratios are 0.9865 and 0.9699 in male and 0.9954 and 0.9944 in female Malay ethnic. There is a weak or low correlation between 2D:4D digit ratio and academic performance in medical students of IIUM.

HaAS

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