

ABSTRACT

Title: Patients' Knowledge about Physiotherapy.

Objectives: To contact representatives of foreign professional organizations to determine whether they were surveyed public knowledge about the physiotherapy, and let them answer some solved questions.

Secondly, to investigate patients' knowledge about physiotherapy, if they see the difference between a physiotherapist and a masseur and if they properly title or address the physiotherapists. In case of desinformation of the patients to think what would be the best way to improve that.

Methods: An english written questionnaire containing 6 questions was sent to the representatives of professional organizations by e-mail.

The survey among Czech patients was conducted using a structured questionnaire consisting of 10 questions. Distribution took place in Prague and Pardubice.

Results: Only 31% of the representatives of the professional organizations reported that the survey about the public knowledge about the physiotherapy was conducted but the document could not be obtained. 77% of the representatives also stated that patients with no previous experience with the physiotherapy *rather know* what is the content of this field and 69% also believed that the patients used *name / surname* most commonly in addressing the physiotherapists. 38% said that the profession of the physiotherapist and the masseur is *rarely* confused.

The survey among Czech patients brought 187 responses. 8% of patients from Prague and 0% of patients from Pardubice is closer to the definition of physiotherapy as *a prevention, diagnostics and therapy of functional disorders of musculoskeletal system*. 73% of patients from Prague knows at least one specific method used in physiotherapy (39% said *therapeutic physical education in combination with physical therapy*), whereas 58% of patients from Pardubice any particular method does not. 62% of patients from Prague is considered to be *sufficiently informed* about the character and purpose of the applied treatment procedure, 50% of patients from Pardubice is *rather*

informed. 27% of patients from Prague use *Miss / Mrs. / Mr.* with *name / surname* most commonly in addressing the physiotherapists but 44% of patients from Pardubice use *nurse* most commonly. The prevailing opinion in both cities is that the patients never learned from the physiotherapists how to title them in a right way (88% Prague, 77% Pardubice) but the patients did not asked themselves (94% Prague, 81% Pardubice). Only 4% of patients from Prague and 12% of patients from Pardubice was corrected in case of wrong addressing the physiotherapists. 80% of patients from Prague and 71% of patients from Pardubice sees the difference between the profession of the physiotherapist and the massuer.

Keywords: Characteristics of physiotherapy, addressing physiotherapist, difference between physiotherapist and masseur