Dermatology medical education: 
A global assessment of the educational and teaching aspects of the dermatology clinical clerkship 
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Background

Studies show that limited time is devoted to dermatology education during medical school.

Objective

Our primary aim is to assess the medical student's perspective on the dermatology clinical clerkship.

Study Design

A multi-center survey study was conducted, which included four academic programs. A 17-item questionnaire was designed to investigate medical student perception with regards to the overall educational value of the various teaching aspects of the dermatology clinical clerkship. Parameters such as proficiency in diagnosis and treatment of common dermatologic diseases, proficiency in conducting common dermatologic procedures, desired length of the clerkship and overall satisfaction with the clerkship were included. Surveys were distributed to medical students upon completion of the dermatology clerkship at four academic centers in California.

Results

Medical students are exposed to common dermatologic conditions during the dermatology clinical clerkship and feel proficient in the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. Medical students may not gain enough experience conducting dermatologic procedures and do not feel proficient in conducting these procedures following the dermatology clerkship. Overall medical students’ perception of the dermatology clinical clerkship were mostly positive.

Conclusion

Studies show that limited time is devoted to dermatology education during medical school. Medical students are exposed to common dermatologic conditions during the dermatology clinical clerkship and feel proficient in the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. Medical students may not gain enough experience conducting dermatologic procedures and do not feel proficient in conducting these procedures following the dermatology clerkship. Overall medical students’ perception of the dermatology clinical clerkship were mostly positive.

References