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Dental student's views of their clinical cognitive skills: A qualitative study

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Introduction: Clinical skills involve student's cognitive and technical skills, which represent the essential aspects of professional competency. Clinical skills development was a focus of many recent studies. Previously conducted studies showed that undergraduate dental students have more interest toward developing their technical clinical skills, which include simple and complicated dental extractions, rather than developing cognitive skills. However, to the best of the author's knowledge, there is no previously conducted qualitative study to understand students' perception of their cognitive clinical skills.

Materials & Methods: This focus group study was conducted in Al-Mustansiriya College of Dentistry. The study sample was nine students. Six students were fifth year students, and three were fourth year students. Focus group discussion was conducted using a set of open-ended questions based on previous study and the author's 10 year clinical teaching experience. The model on which the discussions were made was patient information sheet of oral surgery department.

Results: Reaching diagnosis and making logical treatment decision in the used patient information sheet model, as perceived by students, seem to be a daunting process. The study showed that students have three overlapping views regarding diagnosis and treatment planning items, importance contradict ambiguity and deterrence. There are no clear-cut boundaries between these aspects, as important aspects for some participants still ambiguous for others. Ambiguous items is considered by some students consider them as deterrent items.

Conclusion: Undergraduate dental students seem to have critical awareness towards the diagnostic and treatment planning process, which might indicate that students have interest to develop their clinical cognitive skills. However, the pressure of time with the clinical requirement appears to drive students to give more emphasis on technical skills.

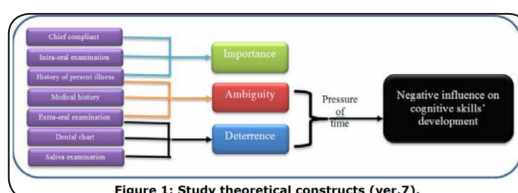


Figure 1: Study theoretical constructs (ver.7).

Recent Publications:

1. An introduction to qualitative research data analysis artistic approach. International Journal of Development Research 06(12):1061610619.
2. Faaiz Alhamdani (2017) Dental students' views of their clinical cognitive skills. A qualitative study. JODR 4:1.
3. Faaiz Alhamdani (2017) Medical Research from Realism to Abstractism. Public Health Open Journal 2(2):42-45.
4. Faaiz Y Alhamdani and Hatem A Hatem (2017) Drawing as learning aid in human anatomy, students' based evaluation. Journal of Oral Health and Craniofacial Sciences 2:90-95.

Biography

Faaiz Yaqub Kadhum Al-Hamadani has completed his PhD at Newcastle University, UK in 2012. Since then he is interested in qualitative research methodologies. Beside his interest in qualitative research, he is also interested in educational research and quality of life research. From 2012, he co-organized most of Iraqi Division (IAOR) events and in August, 2017, he was the Main Organizer and President of the 4th IAOR Scientific Conference in Antalya, Turkey. He is also a Member of The American Association for Advancement of Sciences.

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