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Academic leagues consultation in patient's view

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Introduction: Academic leagues are extracurricular activities organized by students who aim to deepen studies in one determined topic. It is a space where students can act as health promoters while acquiring practical care training. Among possible options of activities, some leagues provide ambulatory consultations: the student initially sees patients and then the appropriate treatment is discussed with the supervisor doctor. For at least thirty years, leagues have been importantly contributing to medical student development. However, articles about this kind of training in literature are scarce.

Objectives: The primary objective was to verify patient's view on academic leagues care. The secondary objectives were to compare patients and students views on care and learning quality, respectively.

Methods: Patients and students from three academic leagues of a traditional medical school in São Paulo answered a validated Portuguese version of "Consultation Questionnaire Satisfaction", with eighteen questions which assess general satisfaction, professional aspects, duration of the meeting and student-patient relationship. Semiology learning was analyzed with seven extra questions in students' questionnaire. Each answer was graduated in a scale of satisfaction varying from one (worse) to five (best), and the final score was converted to percentage of satisfaction (sum of answers/total score). Patients treated in the league for less than one semester, illiterate or with clinical difficulty to read were excluded. After a year collecting data, we used R commander program to run appropriate statistical analyses.

Results: 73 patients and 53 students were included. We observed high levels of satisfaction among patients (80.1%), with lower levels in evaluation of meeting duration (78.1%). Students had overall lower levels of satisfaction (72.1%, $p < 0.05$), mainly due to doctor-patient relationship (69.8%). We did not observe difference in patient satisfaction when considering age (<60 vs >60, $p = 0.14$), gender ($p = 0.41$), previous treatment (public vs private vs no treatment, $p = 0.544$) but we observed tendency to a difference in satisfaction among scholar degrees (fundamental school vs high school vs college degree,

$p=0.06$), with less literate patients being more unsatisfied. We found an improvement in patient's own health evaluation, in a scale varying from zero to ten, after being attended in leagues (Average pre-league: 6.31; Average pos-league: 9.26; $p<0.05$). Despite lesser consult satisfaction, students positively evaluated the learning aspects at academic leagues. Most students believed that improved their semiology skills (94%) and doctor-patient relationship (98%).

Discussion and Conclusion: Academic leagues are disseminated in medical schools in Brazil. Data from patients view on their consultations were lacking. Our study shows that patients satisfaction rates are high, despite gender, previous treatment and age. However, patients who did not complete high school tended to have less satisfaction. Students satisfaction was lower than the patients satisfaction, but most of them recognize that important clinical skills were improved. We conclude that academic leagues are important for student training in medical school and to patients care, who are satisfied with their treatment at these academic spaces.

Keywords: Academic leagues; Student training in medical school; Students, medical.