

YOUNG DOCTORS FACING MEDICAL ERRORS, A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO CONTROL THE INCIDENCE OF MISSED DIAGNOSTICS



INTRODUCTION:

Research has revealed that diagnostic errors are responsible for an estimated 40,000-80,000 deaths per year in the USA alone. Also, diagnostic errors are associated with a proportionately higher morbidity than is the case with other types of medical errors. In order to evaluate how metacognition elements are implemented during the residency training period, we developed a set of questions addressed to medical residents in different fields. Their feedback will help develop solutions which, in the end, will reduce diagnostic errors.

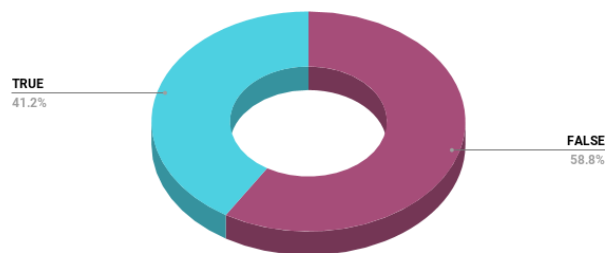
METHODS:

A 14-item survey was used to obtain data from young doctors undergoing the residency training in Iasi, Romania between July 4th to September 4th, 2017. The questions were delivered online. The respondents' group consisted of 51 persons, both male and female, which answered the questions anonymously.

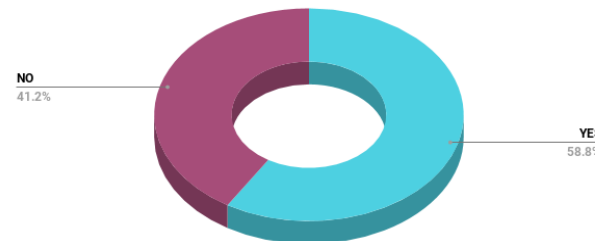
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RESULTS:

Experienced doctors rarely commit cognitive errors



I know strategies that I can use to reduce cognitive errors



I am willing to discuss my clinical reasoning with the patient and/or his relatives.

Definitely - 37.25% **Very likely - 45.09%** **Likely - 9.8%** **Unlikely - 5.88%** **No - 1.98%**

The fear of committing diagnostic errors affects my clinical reasoning.

Definitely - 9.8% **Very likely - 23.52%** **Likely - 19.6%** **Unlikely - 33.33%** **No - 13.72%**

I experience negative emotions (guilt, fear, shame, frustration, anxiety, depression) following a diagnostic error.

Definitely - 27.45% **Very likely - 33.33%** **Likely - 31.37%** **Unlikely - 3.92%** **No - 3.92%**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The medical educational system influences foremost young doctors by implementing metacognition elements that contribute to clinical reasoning. Unfortunately, this process is not carried out in the same manner during the residency training period.

Terms like **clinical reasoning**, **diagnostic** and **cognitive error** are essential for the development of an efficient medical decision making.

Perpetuating a mentality which is focused on memorizing all the possible diagnostics creates the background for missing outcomes that have not been encountered before.

I believe that I play an important role in reducing diagnostic errors

78.4% TRUE **21.6% FALSE**

I take into account the impact of cognitive biases during a consultation

84.2% TRUE **15.8% FALSE**

CONCLUSIONS: The lack of know-how in preventing and reducing diagnostic errors needs to be corrected with an educational program, which should be implemented particularly in medical schools. Doctors should focus on acquiring a sense of investigating rather than trying to "watch and match".