



HOW WELL DO MEDICAL SCHOOLS PREPARE THEIR UNDERGRADUATED STUDENTS FOR INTERNSHIP: PERSPECTIVES FROM INTERN PHYSICIANS

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Background

Students

Internship

Professional physicians

Factors which affected interns' preparedness

Insufficient clinical knowledge

Insufficient procedural skills

Lack of confidence

Insufficient medical laws knowledge

And others, and others, and others

Objectives:

Explore and compare perspectives regarding medical school preparation of young physicians graduated from Phramongkutklao College of Medicine (PCM) for clinical practice.

Summary of Work

• Study population:

- First year interns
- Second year interns

• Questionnaire:

- Descriptive statistics
- 5-Likert scale covering 4 perspectives toward preparation for clinical practice;
 - Knowledge (K)
 - Medical ethics & laws (L)
 - Technology usage (T)
 - Communication skills (C)
- Commentary section

• Statistical analysis:

- One-way ANOVA
- Independent t-test

Summary of Results

- 86.11% were first year interns.
- **Military and civilian** interns had different perspectives on preparation for **technology usage** ($t=2.716$, $p=0.008$).
- **Second-year interns** had **lower** knowledge on **ethics and laws** than their first-year counterpart ($t=2.066$, $p=0.042$).
- **Female** physicians had **lower** preparation for **communication skills** than males ($t=2.412$, $p=0.018$).
- Most comments orientated toward inadequate clinical practice preparation, followed by knowledge regarding public health system.

Comparison between perspectives toward four aspects of medical school preparation for interns in clinical practice

	Mean score				One-way ANOVA				Mean difference	p
	K	L	T	C	Levene statistics	p	F	p		
	3.70	4.05	3.97	4.00	2.26	0.082	4.11	0.007	L>K	0.009
									L>T	1.000
									L>C	1.000
									T>K	0.083
									T>C	1.000
									C>K	0.042

Perspectives of civilian and military physicians (n=74)

Aspect	Mean score ± SD		t	p
	Military (n=59)	Civilian (n=15)		
K	4.06±0.54	3.84±0.59	1.39	0.170
L	4.05±0.79	4.07±0.70	0.07	0.944
T	4.08±0.63	3.56±0.81	2.72	0.008
C	4.06±0.62	3.77±0.74	1.56	0.123

Perspectives of first and second-year interns (n=74)

Aspect	Mean score ± SD		t	p
	First-year (n = 62)	Second-year (n = 12)		
K	4.03±0.48	3.94±0.84	0.36	0.724
L	4.13±0.67	3.65±1.07	2.07	0.042
T	4.01±0.65	3.80± 0.89	0.74	0.473
C	4.01±0.61	3.94±0.89	0.36	0.721

Perspectives of male and female interns (n=74)

Aspect	Mean score ± SD		t	p
	Males (n=43)	Females (n=31)		
K	4.05±0.62	3.97±0.44	0.60	0.549
L	4.16±0.81	3.91±0.69	1.37	0.174
T	4.02±0.79	3.91±0.55	0.62	0.539
C	4.15±0.66	3.79±0.61	2.44	0.017

Discussion & Conclusion

- Clinical knowledge prepared for internship was still inadequate.
- Revision on the coverage of the curriculum should be focused.
- Technology use, ethics and laws and communication skills could be reinforced for enhancement.

Take Home Message

- Further exploration of knowledge should be done on factors that rendered students felt unprepared, especially in externs.
- Studies on preparation of public health system for medical students are recommended.