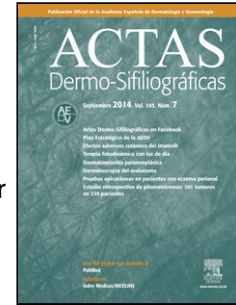


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¿Cuál es la visión de los estudiantes de medicina sobre la Dermatología? Un estudio transversal usando la herramienta Mentimeter

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CARTA CIENTÍFICO-CLÍNICA

¿Cuál es la visión de los estudiantes de medicina sobre la Dermatología? Un estudio transversal usando la herramienta Mentimeter

[[Translated article]]How do Medical Students Actually See Dermatology? A Cross-Sectional Study Using the Mentimeter App

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To the Editor,

Currently, society's perception of dermatology is biased. Part of the population considers it a trivial and straightforward specialty where the dermatologist's primary motivation is purely financial. However, Dermatology is a broad and complex medical-surgical specialty that encompasses the skin, appendages, and mucous membranes, and covers multiple areas of knowledge such as cutaneous oncology, dermatopathology, immunodermatology, venereology, surgery, etc.^{1,2}. Furthermore, dermatological diseases are one of the most common reasons for primary care consultation, being one of the specialties with the greatest need for specialist evaluation and the highest number of referrals³. Moreover, dermatological

conditions have a significant impact on the patients and their cohabitants' quality of life and represent significant spending for the health care system⁴. The mistaken perception of Dermatology in society could be partly due to a lack of awareness on our specialty⁵.

Therefore, the objective of this study is to evaluate the opinion of fourth-year medical students about Dermatology and assess the impact of the Dermatology course on their perception.

For this purpose, we designed a cross-sectional study and included fourth-year medical students who took the Dermatology course during the 2021-2022 academic year at Universidad de Granada Medical School, Spain. Students who attended the Dermatology seminars were included and categorized into 2 groups: those who attended at the beginning of the course (from March 15th through April 15th) and those who did so at the end (May 1st through May 30th). They were asked about the positive and negative aspects of the specialty through the Mentimeter tool⁶.

A total of 45 students were included in the study, 26 of whom gave their answers at the beginning of the course and 19 at the end. At the beginning of the course, the positive aspects students highlighted on the specialty were money, the absence of on-call duties, and quality of life (Fig. 1A), while the negative aspects they mentioned were the monotony involved with this specialty (Fig. 1B). After completing the course, students highlighted as positives of Dermatology that it is an interesting, comprehensive specialty, without on-call duties, and with the possibility of private practice (Fig. 2A). Negative aspects were that it is a highly demanded specialty with difficult access and complex diagnoses (Fig. 2B).

This study shows that the initial perception of Dermatology has to do with good quality of life and financial position, whereas after completing the course, students have a more realistic view of the specialty and consider it comprehensive, complex, and full of employment opportunities.

An Italian study found that most of the population knew, at least, 1 skin disease—psoriasis, dermatitis, urticaria, skin tumors, nevi—and that dermatologists were the second health care worker they sought advice from when having skin problems after the family doctor. However, in pediatric skin conditions, only 38% identified the dermatologist as the go-to specialist⁷. On the other hand, in a different study conducted in the United States, more than half of the respondents believed that dermatologists had a less critical profession and that their work was easier than that of primary care physicians or cardiologists. Additionally, more than 90% of participants believed that dermatologists worked fewer hours, and up to a third thought that dermatologists spent most of their time performing cosmetic procedures. Regarding the financial aspect, the public perceived that dermatologists earned more than primary care physicians, but less than cardiologists or plastic surgeons. The authors consider that this opinion about Dermatology is partly due to a lack of knowledge about our activity and

highlighted the need to train the population on the factual reality of the Dermatology specialty⁸.

In this regard, former studies conducted among Dermatology students also show that the perception of the specialty and the role of the dermatologist improves after completing the course⁹. Additionally, Fundación Piel Sana of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology is currently conducting promotional campaigns to raise awareness about Dermatology and the role of the dermatologist among the general public¹⁰.

This study has some limitations, such as its limited sample size and the absence of follow-up. Among its strengths, the fact that few studies have analyzed the perception of medical students about the specialty using new technologies and assessing the impact of the course.

In conclusion, this study shows that the perception of Dermatology changes after taking the course and highlights the importance of educational efforts regarding the perception of dermatologists and the specialty, both in academic settings and in society.

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Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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Figure 1. Perception of medical students at the beginning of the course on A) positive aspects of the specialty and B) negative aspects of the specialty.



Figure 2. Perception of medical students at the end of the course on A) positive aspects of the specialty and B) negative aspects of the specialty.

TRADUCCIÓN DE LAS FIGURAS (NEGRO: ESPAÑOL · AZUL: INGLÉS)

Figura 1

A) Aspectos positivos de la especialidad

Muy completa

Menos estrés

Vocación

Variedad

Es muy amplia

Mejora la Calidad de vida

Interesante y diversa

Diagnóstico visual

No tan estresante

Diner

Consulta privada

Se cobra bien

Cómoda

Visible

Menos estrés

No guardias

Bonita

Interesante

Transversal

Salario

Calidad de vida

Vocación

Pasta

Algunos tendrás su vocación

Tranquila

Sanidad pública y privada

Muchas salidas laborales

Amplia

No hay guardias

A) Positive Aspects of the Specialty

Very comprehensive

Less stress

Vocation

Variety

Very broad

Improves quality of life

Interesting and diverse

Visual diagnosis

Not as stressful

Money

Private practice

Well-paid

Comfortable

Visible

Less stress

No on-call duties

Attractive

Interesting

Cross-disciplinary

Salary

Quality of life

Vocation

Money

Some will find their vocation

Calm

Public and private healthcare

Many job opportunities

Broad

No on-call duties

B) Aspectos negativos de la especialidad

Difícil

Criticada

Superficial

Todo es parecido

Pocas plazas

No veo inconveniente

Muy demandada en el MIR

Relajada

Todo es parecido

Siempre lo mismo

Más pacientes estéticos
Casi smp corticoids
Poco valorada médicamente
Infravalorada
Un poco solitaria
Consulta de pasillo
Difícil conseguirla
Monótona
Diagnóstico difícil
Difícil tener plaza
Difícil diagnóstico
Número muy alto en el MIR
Muy demandada
Lesiones muy impactantes
Mucho número en el MIR
Poco valorada
Diagnóstico diferencial
Infravalorado
Aburrida
Mal vista por medicos
Diagnóstico diferencial difícil
Mucha similitude en dx
Solo ves granos
Nota alta en el MIR
Limitada a la piel
B) Negative Aspects of the Specialty
Difficult
Criticized
Superficial
Everything is similar
Few spots available

I see no downside
Highly demanded in the MIR (medical residency exam)
Relaxed
Everything is similar
Always the same
More aesthetic patients
Almost always corticosteroids
Medically undervalued
Underappreciated
A bit lonely
Hallway consultations
Hard to get
Monotonous
Difficult diagnosis
Hard to secure a spot
Difficult diagnosis
High ranking in the MIR
Highly demanded
Very impactful lesions
Medically undervalued
Differential diagnosis
Underappreciated
Boring
Poorly regarded by doctors
Difficult differential diagnosis
Lots of similarity in diagnoses
You only see pimples
High score in the MIR
Limited to the skin

Figura 2

A) Aspectos positivos de la especialidad

Humanidad

No muertes

Día a día

Presente en el día a día

Completa

Dx clínico

Ser

Estética

Integral

Privada

Interesante

Calidad de vida

Clínica privada

No hay guardias

Clínica y quirúrgica

Fácil diagnóstico

No guardias

Parte médica y quirúrgica

Trato más cercano

Diagnóstico objetivo

Diversidad de patologías

Es médica y quirúrgica

A) Positive Aspects of the Specialty

Humanity

No deaths

Day-to-day

Present in everyday life

Comprehensive

Clinical diagnosis

Being

Aesthetic

Holistic

Private practice

Interesting

Quality of life

Private clinic

No on-call duties

Clinical and surgical

Easy diagnosis

No on-call duties

Medical and surgical part

Closer interaction

Objective diagnosis

Diversity of diseases

It is both medical and surgical

B) Aspectos negativos de la especialidad

Melanoma agresivo

Diversidad de diagnóstico

Nota alta

Estricta

Muy demandada

Difícil diagnóstico

Difícil sacar plaza

Difícil acceso

No guardias

Poca actividad quirúrgica

Algunos dx difíciles

Menos fisiología médica

Difícil diagnóstico

B) Negative Aspects of the Specialty

Aggressive melanoma

Diagnostic diversity

High score requirement

Strict

Highly demanded

Difficult diagnosis

Hard to secure a spot

Difficult to access

No on-call duties

Limited surgical activity

Some difficult diagnoses

Less focus on medical physiology

Difficult diagnosis

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