

Publication

One-on-one long-term tutorials in general practitioners' practices - a successful new teaching concept in primary care medicine

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To improve teaching in practical and communicative skills and knowledge in day-to-day medical practice, in 1997 we introduced one-on-one tutorials in general practitioners' offices as a mandatory part of medical students' academic education. Students participate actively half a day per week in their 3rd and 4th academic years (out of 6) in the office or clinic of a trained personal tutor. We recruited 270 general practitioners in town or from surrounding rural areas for this purpose. 85% of students choose general practitioners as their tutors and 15 % tutors in hospitals. To test whether the tutorials' aims were achieved, in 2005 we performed a detailed questionnaire evaluation after seven years' experience of one-on-one tutorials. All 236 students involved were asked to participate. The response rate was almost complete (98%). 233 anonymous questionnaires were analysed. Students reported improvement in knowledge, social and communicative skills and personal motivation. The overall rating of the one-on-one tutorials obtained 5.3 on a 6 point scale and achieved the top ranking among all university medical faculty classes. In-practice long-term one-on-one medical student-general practitioner tutorials can be recommended for implementation.

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