Superior multiple sclerosis competencies in physical therapy students who participate in optional 2-year specialty education track

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INTRODUCTION

- Residency is an increasingly popular path for physical therapy graduates to develop advanced clinical skills and knowledge
- MS STEP UP improves clinical knowledge and skills of PT students, as assessed using the MS Competencies Rating Scale (MSCRS)¹,²
- Whether scholar competencies are greater than those who receive the traditional curriculum is not known

OBJECTIVES

To examine the outcomes of a specialized MS training and education program for physical therapy students (MS STEP UP) on self-rated competencies compared to students who did not participate in MS STEP UP

METHODS

- Program timeline, activities, and outcome measures are illustrated in Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3
- Data from 14 scholars (7 cohorts) who have completed the 2-year program were analyzed
- We analyzed the number of items on which the scholars rated their knowledge as “above average” or “excellent” across time and compared the to entry-level DPT students after year 1 of the program (Figure 4)

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- MS STEP UP improves clinical knowledge and skills of PT students, as demonstrated by self-rated competencies
- Whether greater knowledge and competence transfers to more efficient clinical reasoning is yet to be determined
- MS patient care will most likely benefit from the national expansion of MS STEP UP among DPT programs

REFERENCES


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