

Teaching Experienced Family Physicians EBM Approach to Practice

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Background: Today's physicians are faced with identifying, evaluating, and applying a huge quantity of medical information. It requires special skills and it has to be learned how to find the most appropriate source of information, evaluate it quickly, and apply it confidently in daily efforts to provide the best care for patients. Slovene family practitioners have not had much possibilities to learn practically about evidence based medicine (EBM) and are not very familiar with the concept of evidence based medicine so far.

Objectives: We have organised four workshops on evidence based medicine in family practice in order to help the participants to understand the logic behind EBM, to learn how to use strategies for finding EBM literature, to understand EBM in the patient's context, to learn how to search for an answer to clinical problems, and also to make an audit of own work from the perspective of EBM.

Description of Workshops: Workshops were organised on four different topics (osteoporosis, cancer pain care, cardiovascular diseases, low back pain) in order to present usage of EBM approach on practical cases. Workshops were attended by family practitioners involved in teaching family practice. Workshops were preceded by international workshop held in English. More than 15% of all family practitioners in Slovenia have attended the workshops. They were based on presentations by experts, group work and open discussion in small groups and plenaries. The participants were supplied with course material in advance.

Feedback from participants: We can not describe how great was the interest of participants and how attentively they listened the lectures. Most of them were asking for additional possibilities to learn more about use of available resources, many wanting to start from very basics - how to use computer and internet. Participants very much liked the approach of mixture of lectures and work in small groups. As the interest was so great we have put the material from workshops free on home page of Slovene society of family physicians. And most important: as a result special workshop on EBM was included in vocational training of family practitioners.