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Medical students` perceptions of supporting pharmacology learning in English by key information prepared in Arabic

ABSTRACT We explored medical students` perceptions of supporting pharmacology self-learning in English by focused materials prepared in Arabic. This study targeted third-year medical students at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain (n= 183). During the endocrine and metabolism subunit, which is taught in English, slides containing focused information in Arabic preceded detailed English ones. At the end of the subunit, students` perceptions were explored by a questionnaire and focus group discussions. Most participants reported that this intervention made pharmacology learning easier, improved confidence in drug selection, knowledge of adverse drug reactions, detection of response to medications and occurrence of adverse reactions. Most respondents thought that this intervention would help them during the clinical phase of their study and in communicating drug therapy to patients in Arabic. Supporting pharmacology learning in a foreign language with instructional materials prepared in a native language improved students self-reported learning and satisfaction.

Perceptions des étudiants en médecine concernant l'aide apportée par l'utilisation d'informations clés préparées en arabe pour les cours de pharmacologie dispensés en anglais

RÉSUMÉ Nous avons exploré les perceptions des étudiants en médecine concernant l'aide apportée à l'auto-apprentissage de la pharmacologie en anglais par le recours à des matériels spécifiques préparés en arabe. La présente étude ciblait des étudiants en médecine de troisième année à l'Université du Golfe arabe à Bahreïn (n= 183). Durant le sous-module consacré aux maladies endocrines et métaboliques, qui est dispensé en anglais, des diapositives contenant des informations spécifiques en arabe précédaient des informations détaillées en anglais. À la fin du module, on a vérifié les perceptions des étudiants à l'aide d'un questionnaire et dans des groupes de discussion ciblés. La plupart des participants ont mentionné que l'intervention avait rendu la pharmacologie plus facile, que leur confiance lors du choix des médicaments, leur connaissance des réactions adverses aux médicaments, de la détection de la réponse aux médicaments et de la survenue des réactions adverses avaient été améliorées. La plupart des répondants pensaient que cette intervention les aiderait durant la phase clinique de leurs études et dans la communication des traitements médicamenteux aux patients en arabe. L'aide à l'apprentissage de la pharmacologie dans une langue étrangère avec des matériels d'enseignement préparés en langue maternelle a permis d'améliorer l'apprentissage et la satisfaction auto-déclarée.

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