

Do family medicine preceptors value the assessment of patients' lifestyle risk factors and home/work environments? Perceptions of recent graduates.

Maheux B. ^{1,2}, Provost S. ³, Gilbert A. ^{1,2,3}, Côté L. ⁴, Authier L. ², Lefort L. ¹

Objective

To examine the extent to which family medicine residents think their preceptors consider that assessing patients' lifestyle risk factors and home/work environments is important to family medicine practice.

Methodology

Online survey of 2010 family medicine graduates from two Canadian universities. (N=160)



Response rate : 50%

Results

Perceptions of recent graduates in family medicine regarding the importance most of their preceptors attribute to the assessment of patients' lifestyle risk factors and home/work environments.

Assessment of patients' lifestyle risk factors	Perceived importance		
	A lot %	Some %	Little / None %
Smoking status	65	31	3
Alcohol consumption	53	36	11
Body mass index	52	40	8
Waist circumference	41	40	20
Level of physical activity	34	45	21
At risk sexual practices for STI	24	58	18

Assessment of patients' home and work environment	Perceived importance		
	A lot %	Some %	Little / None %
Family and social situation	32	48	20
Work situation	36	40	25
Risk of falls in older patients	15	51	34
Risk of negligence, violence or sexual abuse	10	35	55

• Overall recent graduates felt that preceptors gave more importance to assessing patients' lifestyle risk factors than to patients' home, social and work environments.

• Assessment of patients' smoking status, level of alcohol consumption and body mass index was perceived as the most valued lifestyle risk factors.

• 1 in 5 respondents perceived that most preceptors gave little or no importance to :
- assessment of patients' waist circumference,
- level of physical activity,
- risky sexual behaviors,
- family and social situation.

• A significant proportion of respondents felt that their preceptors gave little or no importance to assessing :
- patients' work situations (1 in 4),
- risks of falls at home in older patients (1 in 3),
- risk of violence, negligence or abuse in patients of all ages (1 in 2).

Conclusion

• Results suggest that the importance given to assessment of patients' lifestyle risk factors and home/work environments is suboptimal in family medicine training.

• Clinical teachers should remedy this situation given the central importance of patients' risk assessment in family practice.



¹Chaire d'enseignement Lucie et André Chagnon sur l'approche intégrée en prévention, ²Université de Montréal, ³Direction de santé publique de Montréal, ⁴Université Laval.
www.celac.umontreal.ca

