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Evaluation of the Level of Knowledge of Emergency Residents and Intern Physicians in the Management of Forensic Cases Coming to the Emergency Department

Acil Servise Gelen Adli Vakaların Yönetiminde Acil Asistan ve İntörn Hekimlerin Bilgi Düzeyinin Değerlendirilmesi

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Dear Editor,

I have read with great interest the article titled "Evaluation of the Level of Knowledge of Emergency Residents and Intern Physicians in the Management of Forensic Cases Coming to the Emergency Department" published in Volume 8, Issue 3, 2024 of your esteemed journal (Kıyak et al., 2024). I commend the authors for addressing the vital and often overlooked topic of medico-legal case (MLC) management in emergency medicine. The article highlights significant knowledge gaps and challenges faced by emergency residents and interns, shedding light on an area that warrants urgent attention for both patient care and judicial processes.

The study reported that only **31% of participants** correctly distinguished between temporary and final forensic reports, reflecting a gap in understanding basic forensic concepts. This finding aligns with studies conducted in other regions. For instance, a study in Saudi Arabia demonstrated that only **28.2% of emergency physicians** were aware of how to complete medico-legal reports, with the majority lacking specific training on report writing (Alabdulqader et al., 2023). Similarly, a study from Turkey highlighted that **56.3% of healthcare personnel** did not know how to report a suspected forensic case, indicating that this issue transcends borders (Topçu et al., 2020).

1. **Standardization of Training Assessment:** Incorporating validated tools such as the Noor Evidence-Based Medicine Questionnaire, as utilized in a Malaysian study on emergency medicine knowledge, could provide more reliable and comparable data (Ahmad Ghaus et al., 2021).
2. **Inclusion of Qualitative Data:** Conducting focus groups or interviews could offer deeper insights into specific barriers faced by emergency physicians in forensic case management, as demonstrated by Reddy et al. in India, where interns expressed significant anxiety due to insufficient forensic training (Reddy et al., 2023).

The finding that **85% of participants** expressed a need for additional forensic medicine training is consistent with global trends. For example, a Turkish study indicated that **75.4% of healthcare personnel** working in emergency departments felt inadequately trained in forensic medicine (Topçu et al., 2020). The lack of training impacts critical tasks such as proper evidence collection and report writing, which are vital for both patient justice and medico-legal compliance. It is imperative that continuous medical education programs and workshops be integrated into medical school curriculums and residency training.

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In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Kıyak et al. for their invaluable contribution to the ongoing discussion on medico-legal case management in emergency departments. The study underscores the urgent need to reform medico-legal education for emergency physicians. Strengthening forensic medicine training through standardized curricula, regular workshops, and simulation exercises could significantly improve the quality of medico-legal reporting and ensure justice for patients. The authors have provided a robust foundation for future research and interventions in this field, and I hope this letter contributes to the ongoing discourse on improving medico-legal education in emergency medicine.

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