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**A preliminary evaluation of the current status of polish medical students
education on alcohol-related medical harm**

SUMMARY

A survey on teaching the issues of alcohol-related medical harms and management of such cases was carried out in 14 medical academies in Poland. A vast majority of these issues are taught during psychiatry classes, taking on the average no more than 10 hours. Theoretical problems were found to predominate over practical skills acquirement in the timetable. Another negative phenomenon consisted in a predominance of issues encountered in specialist psychiatric and alcohol/drug treatment (rare cases of alcohol dependence complications) over practical skills acquirement (management of risky or harmful psychoactive substance abuse). These findings implicate a need for a detailed expertise on the place of education on consequences of alcohol and other psychoactive substances abuse in medical schools curricula, for striving to increase considerably the proportion of hours devoted to psychiatry (and by the same token, to the education on substance abuse consequences), and for development of a curriculum providing a minimum of the necessary knowledge and skills enabling the future physicians to cope with the growing number of problems presented by alcohol or drug abusers.

Key words: substance abuse / education / medical students

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