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What do Turkish family physicians know about critical reading?

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Background: As technology and science advance rapidly, users require access to up-to-date information in the field of medicine, similar to all other fields. For healthcare workers to monitor advancements in their scientific field closely to keep their knowledge up-to-date, how they access information, the reliability of the information they access and their ability to perform a rapid and adequate evaluation of the information are very important. There are many studies in literature exploring how scientific articles should be written, however, there are very few studies investigating how articles should be read. Aims: The purpose of this study is to determine the level of scientific paper reading awareness and knowledge among family medicine residents and specialists. This study also aims to increase the level of scientific paper reading awareness among family medicine residents and specialists, to identify their weaknesses in this area and to develop suggestions for the family medicine residency curriculum about scientific paper reading.

Method: The survey consisting of questions developed by researchers was distributed by sending study invitations to a mail group with 1350 members that are family medicine residents and specialists, and the study was conducted online on a website.

Results: Eighty-nine people responded to the survey. Four people stated that they did not participate in the study. The answers of 85 people that completed the survey were evaluated. Of the participants, 45.9% are male, and 54.1% are female, the mean age is 34.51 ± 7.64 , 43.6% are family medicine residents, 17.6% are academics, and 38.8% are family medicine specialists. Nearly all (97.6%) of the participants state that they read scientific papers. The doctors express that they use the MEDLINE and Pubmed databases to access scientific papers the most. Study data is still being gathered.

Conclusion: Primary care doctors have an important role in operating healthcare services, it is important to develop their knowledge and awareness of scientific paper reading to ensure that they access current and exact information. No similar study has been conducted in our country, and our study is exceptionally important as it sheds light on this area.