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### Changes in knowledge of and attitudes towards family medicine along the degree of Spanish medical students from two different curricula

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**Objective:** A course in Family Medicine (FM) could dispel possible negative stereotyping about the specialty. When it is preferable, at the beginning or at the end of the degree? To determine changes in the knowledge of and attitudes towards FM between 2nd-6th year of medical students who completed a course in primary care (PC).

**Method:** Cohort study. Students from two medical schools (A: course in PC in 2nd year; B: course in PC in 6th year) were asked to respond to a questionnaire including the brief CAMF, socio-demographic and academic items. In A they were requested to respond before the PC course beginning, and the day of the final exam; 2nd year students from B at the end of first trimester. All of them were invited to respond at the end of their 6th year. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS 17.0: Chi square, Student t/non parametric tests.

**Results:** In A, at the 2nd, 6th year, 8, 64 students responded, respectively; 50, 98 at B. In 6th year the mean age was 23 in A, 24 in B ( $p=0.003$ ); 53.1% and 71.0% were women ( $p=0.008$ ).

A: after completing the PC course 43.7% students said they would like to become a family doctor in the future (vs 36.5% before the PC course,  $p=0.028$ ); 22% in B ( $p=0.01$  vs A at the end of 2nd year). At the end of the degree were 35.9% and 55.1%, respectively in A and B ( $p=0.02$ ).

A: the mean CAMF scores: 15.4 (SD:7.0), 22.7 (SD:7.1), 21.8 (SD:7.1) before and after the PC course and at the end of the degree. B: 13.9 (SD:6.4), significantly lower than A after PC course ( $p<0.0001$ ), 23.5 (SD:5.7), no significant differences respect to A.

**Conclusions:** Student interest by FM showed at their 2nd year decreases at the end of the degree. Although there were no significant differences on CAMF scores, students from B showed.