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Evaluation of the e-learning module “The Sexually Transmitted Disease Consultation”

Linda Bos-Bonnie(1), M Kijser(2), V Pigmans(2), J van Bergen(1,3), N van Dijk(1)

(1) General Practice, AMC-UvA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

(2) Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG), Utrecht, The Netherlands

(3) STI Aids Netherlands, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Corresponding author: PhD Fellow Linda Bos-Bonnie, Academic Medical Centre - University of Amsterdam, General Practice, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. E-mail: l.h.bos@amc.uva.nl

Background & Aim: in the Netherlands, approximately 70% of all Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) diagnoses are made by GPs. To support the knowledge, skills and attitudes of GPs towards patients with (suspected) STD, the interactive e-learning module “The STD-consultation” was presented by the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) in 2013. This e-learning module contains a variation of educational methods, including role models and interactive video’s.

The aim of this oral or poster presentation is to present the results on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the interactive e-learning module “The STD-consultation”.

Method: By means of questionnaires, taken before, right after and maximum two years after completion of the e-learning module, information was obtained from participating GPs. Also, by means of open questions, participating GPs were asked if they made changes in their daily practice concerning STDs, after the completion of the e-learning module.

The results were analyzed both qualitative and quantitative.

Results: The data collected on 2192 GPs were used for evaluation. After completing the e-learning module, GPs stated that they more frequently ask questions about sexual behavior, they feel more competent in diagnosing and treating patients with STD, they are more aware of the possibility of a STD in patients with non-specific symptoms, they diagnose patients more often according to the guideline for STD, and they aim to achieve a more active investigation policy regarding HIV. These changes persist among GPs that completed the e-learning module more than one-and-a-half year ago.

Also, GPs indicated that in their daily practice concerning STD, they changed their sexual history taking and the conduction of additional investigation.

Conclusion: The interactive e-learning module “The STD-consultation” has contributed to a persistent change in the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of GP’s towards patients with a (suspected) STD.