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Experience about an educational activity on differential diagnosis - Dr House's Workshops

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Aim: to emphasize the differential diagnosis as a basic tool of daily work of the family doctors.

Methods: a group of tutors in Family Medicine (FM) and its residents designed a postgraduate experience activity, about short workshops on clinical cases. The first edition was held at the headquarters of the CAMFiC (Barcelona), with collaboration of various working groups of this Society. Second edition was thought in collaboration with FM Docent Unit (provider of Spanish Ministry of Health). Third edition was held within a working day of residents and tutors of the Unit (Salou).

Currently, the portfolio is:

1. Skin lesions in palms and soles, plus chest pain
2. Dark nail coloration
3. Ulcerative spots in legs plus influenza-like clinic
4. Unconventional headache
5. Epigastric abdominal pain
6. Unexplained hyperglycemia in diabetic
7. Conjunctivitis and relapsing ear inflammation
8. Rash, nodes in legs and articular pain
9. Refractory anemia in old person
10. Abdominal pain simulating appendicitis

All these cases are (relatively) common in Primary Care and can be solved entirely in our level of attention. Some of them require any specific tests but we can order it directly.

Previsible Results/Conclusions: Finally, it has become an exportable course, within the overall support of CAMFiC, and some of the clinical cases were publicated. We think that the high interest is given by an appropriate differential diagnosis, conducted in a simulated clinical session where all participants contribute equally. There is a constructive debate assessing pros and cons of each diagnostic. Unlike the House MD-TV Series, a family doctor is a nearby professional and should be familiar with the differential diagnosis in multiple cases, by guiding symptoms, and know how to choose appropriate tests for confirmation of hypotheses, or the most accurate derivation in each case.