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New knowledge for family doctors

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Advanced therapies have developed in the last decades and there is a great expectation not only for patients but also for general public. In this research we investigated the perceptions of family trainees on health education on advanced therapies.

Methods: This study was performed in the district of Jaén, Spain. The sample consisted of 30 family trainees. The average age was 29.2 years. The male/female ratio was 9/21 individuals. A questionnaire was used to evaluate the perceptions with a likert-like 1 to 5 scale to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement for each option. The Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests were used to identify the family medicine resident priorities. Family medicine residents gave highly positive scores to the need for health education in this matter. Providing health education in primary care centres is much better perceived than doing it in primary and middle school ($p < 0.022$). Non-significant differences were observed between other agents such as hospitals, universities and mass media. Statistically significant differences were found between male and female residents. Specifically, scores were higher in males for education in hospitals ($p < 0.003$) and education in mass media ($p < 0.029$).

Conclusions: The perception of family medicine residents, with some differences between males and females, is that the primary health care centre is the most appropriate for health education in this matter. Knowing the attitudes and priorities of family medicine residents on this subject can be of interest to plan future education programs not only to promote better informed choices, but also to avoid false therapeutic expectations.