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Malaysian pharmacy students' perspectives on the virtual objective structured clinical examination during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

(2021) *Journal of Educational Evaluation for Health Professions*, 18, art. no. 6, .

DOI: 10.3352/jeehp.2021.18.6

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Abstract

Purpose: This study investigated pharmacy students' perceptions of various aspects of virtual objective structured clinical examinations (vOSCEs) conducted during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in Malaysia. Methods: This cross-sectional study involved third- and fourth-year pharmacy students at the International Islamic University Malaysia. A validated self-administered questionnaire was distributed to students who had taken a vOSCE a week before. Results: Out of the 253 students who were approached, 231 (91.3%) completed the questionnaire. More than 75% of the participants agreed that the instructions and preparations were clear and helpful in familiarizing them with the vOSCE flow. It was found that 53.2% of the respondents were satisfied with the flow and conduct of the vOSCE. However, only approximately one-third of the respondents believed that the tasks provided in the vOSCE were more convenient, less stressful, and easier to perform than those in the conventional OSCE. Furthermore, 49.7% of the students favored not having a vOSCE in the future when conducting a conventional OSCE becomes feasible again. Internet connection was reported as a problem hindering the performance of the vOSCE by 51.9% of the participants. Students who were interested in clinical pharmacy courses were more satisfied than other students with the preparation and operation of the vOSCE, the faculty support, and the allocated time. Conclusion: Students were satisfied with the organization and operation of the vOSCE. However, they still preferred the conventional OSCE over the vOSCE. These findings might indicate a further need to expose students to telehealthcare models. © 2021, Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute

Author Keywords

COVID-19; Educational measurement; Malaysia; Pharmacy students; Physical examination

Index Keywords

clinical competence, cross-sectional study, education, female, human, Malaysia, male, pharmacy student, procedures, psychology, questionnaire; Clinical Competence, COVID-19, Cross-Sectional Studies, Education, Pharmacy, Educational Measurement, Female, Humans, Internet Use, Malaysia, Male, SARS-CoV-2, Students, Pharmacy, Surveys and Questionnaires

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Publisher: Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute

ISSN: 19755937

PubMed ID: 33910270

Language of Original Document: English

Abbreviated Source Title: J. Edu. Eval. Health Prof.

2-s2.0-85105042553

Document Type: Article

Publication Stage: Final

Source: Scopus

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