

The Patient Educator Presentation in Dental Education

"We hypothesized that a Patient Educator Presentation (PEP) on pemphigus vulgaris would increase dental students' awareness of the importance of learning about rare diseases, and increase curriculum retention through an emotional appeal. We report on students' subjective assessments of this approach.

There was consensus among the respondents at both institutions regarding the effectiveness of the Patient Educator Presentation (PEP). Respondents at both universities commented that the PEP highlighted the painful nature of this condition, the importance of not dismissing a patient's concerns, and the need to perform a biopsy to reach a definitive diagnosis.

The potential benefits of a presentation by a real patient on his or her own illness, the Patient Educator Presentation, have rarely been discussed in the dental education literature. In this mixed methods study, comprising both quantitative and qualitative analysis, we demonstrated that classroom presentation by a "patient educator" with a rare medical condition increases dental students' self-reported recognition of the importance of learning about rare conditions that can present with oral manifestations, and emphasizes the importance of rare disease knowledge retention."

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