

Abstract

Skin of color (SOC) has been consistently under-represented in medical school education. The purpose of this study was to assess whether the current medical school curriculum is adequately preparing medical school students to diagnose dermatologic conditions in SOC and non-skin of color (N-SOC). The top eleven dermatologic conditions according to the Global Burden of Disease were examined through the creation of two surveys that posed 22 multiple-choice questions, testing students' ability to diagnose a condition based on a patient photo, and 3 personal identification questions about current medical school year, Fitzpatrick skin (FS) type, and prior experience in dermatology. We found that conditions with greatest disparities in accurate visual diagnosis based on FS phototypes (Fitzpatrick I-III vs Fitzpatrick IV-VI) were atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, herpes zoster, malignant melanoma, and impetigo. A majority of students who self-reported a personal FS type of I-III were largely unable to correctly diagnose psoriasis, basal cell carcinoma, and malignant melanoma on FS phototype IV-VI. Our findings emphasize the need for a more diverse representation of patients to be included in comprehensive dermatology curriculums.