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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.32873/unmc.dc.ihsej.0009

This original report is available in Innovations in Health Sciences Education Research Journal: https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/ihsej/vol1/iss2/5
Bruxism Oral Appliances: A Guide by Students for Students

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Poster presented at the 2022 Spotlight on Scholarship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

Abstract

Background: E-modules created and designed by students produce powerful synergy addressing specific learning gaps and high frequency clinical errors in an efficient, accessible manner. Purpose: This study investigated the perceived usefulness by D3/D4 students of an interactive asynchronous e-Module addressing common misunderstandings of bruxism clinical findings, oral appliance designs, fabrication materials/techniques, CDT coding, clinical application, and their recommended e-Module user.

Methods/Materials: This e-module was created using Articulate Storyline® software, incorporating 10 interactive formative assessment questions and was developed as part of a collaborative student/faculty partnership program. Dental students (N=113 D3/D4) completed the e-Module assignment. Feedback reaction survey response rate 58% to 75% (N=32 D4 and N=44 D3) assessed objectives, images/video, post assessments, descriptive feedback (scale 1-5) and anticipated future use in academic and clinical training. Respondents identified which dental health team members and dentist experience level they would recommend the e-Module.

Results: The independent sample test was used to compare the mean student reaction variables between D3 and D4 students. Fisher's exact test was used to compare recommendation with D3/D4 status. All analysis was done using SAS 9.4 and a p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Positive agreement for each feedback reaction occurred with both user groups. The range of mean scores for each feedback reaction was 4.05-4.50 (1-5 score interval). There was no statistically significant difference in the mean student reactions variable between D3 and D4 students. There is a statistically significant association between recommendation of e-Module for hygienists and dental student year (p=0.0145). 52% of 3rd year students responded the e-Module should be recommended to hygienists compared to 81% of 4th year students. Conclusion: Bruxism oral appliance e-module received positive feedback from dental student users. Feedback evaluations support e-module use for reinforcing foundational knowledge for clinical patient care and is a helpful tool to target potential users.

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