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## Evaluating Medical Student Confidence and Competency Related to Dermatologic Morphology and the Effect of an Educational Module and Summary Document

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# Evaluating Medical Student Confidence and Competency Related to Dermatologic Morphology and the Effect of an Educational Module and Summary Document

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## Abstract

Background: Non-dermatologist physicians perform ~60% of visits related to the primary diagnosis of a dermatological condition, yet dermatology education and training are extremely limited within medical school curricula at 0.23-0.3%. The goal of this study is to evaluate current University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) medical student's confidence and ability in describing skin lesions and knowledge of various morphologies, and to determine if educational resources and an author created summary document would be utilized by students and be found beneficial. Methods: An initial two-part survey was distributed to current UNMC medical students to determine their confidence and competency related to dermatological morphology before and after viewing the AAD's Basic Dermatology Curriculum's Morphology Module. Participants were provided a summary document related to the module at the end of the initial survey for use in the clinical setting, and a follow-up survey was distributed after 3 months to determine document utilization and suggestions for improvement. Results: The initial survey found that 59% (10/17) of participants did not feel that they had been provided enough education while in medical school on how to properly describe skin lesions and mean participant confidence increased regarding knowledge of morphological terms and ability to describe skin lesions after viewing the AAD's module. The follow-up survey found 13% of participants had utilized the summary document. Of the participants who did not utilize the document, 55% stated they had forgotten about the document and 32% reported they had not needed it since download. Conclusion: The survey responses indicated a need for further education of dermatological morphology of medical students and positive benefit with introduction of an educational module and summary document. The authors are exploring the creation and additions of a dermatological morphology focused module and a small group session to the UNMC medical student curriculum.

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