

Implementation of medical genetics in medical education curriculum

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ABSTRACT

Primary care physicians should be aware that genomics has arrived at the doorstep of their practice. Genetic knowledge, skills, and attitudes are important for primary care physicians in providing support and management to patients and families with higher risks of genetic conditions, because at least one in ten patients seen in primary care has a disorder with a genetic component, including hereditary cancer. Primary care physicians must be able to advise patients on genetic and genomic manifestations of the associated diseases and disorders, as well as drawing the outline of primary pedigree in order to deliver the necessary information: diseases of which the patients are at risk, and decide the need of referral to genetic services. Furthermore, there is increasing evidence about the importance of clinical emphasis in the genetics classes, probably proceeding to a third-year refresher program in the longitudinal curriculum. An enhanced educational experience to improve genetics and genomics knowledge should be more well-structured in the imminent future.

Keywords: primary care physicians; hereditary cancer; genetic curriculum; genetic services