Determination of clinically relevant content for a musculoskeletal anatomy curriculum for physical medicine and rehabilitation residents

Introduction: To address the need for more clinical anatomy training in residency education, many postgraduate programs have implemented structured anatomy courses into their curriculum. Consensus often does not exist on specific content and level of detail of the content that should be included in such curricula.

Method: We used the Delphi method to identify clinically relevant content to incorporate in a musculoskeletal anatomy curriculum for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residents. A two round modified Delphi involving PM&R experts was used to establish the curricular content. The anatomical structures and clinical conditions presented to the expert group were compiled using multiple sources: clinical musculoskeletal anatomy cases from the PM&R residency program at the University of Toronto; consultation with PM&R experts; and textbooks. In each round, experts rated the importance of each curricular item to PM&R residency education using a 5-point Likert scale. Internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) was used to determine consensus at the end of each round and agreement scores were used as an outcome measure to determine the content to include in the curriculum.

Results: The overall internal consistency in both rounds was 0.99. A total of 37 physiatrists from across Canada participated and the overall response rate over two rounds was 97%. The initial curricular list consisted of 361 items. After the second iteration, the list was reduced by 44%.

Conclusion: By using a national consensus method we were able to objectively determine the relevant anatomical structures and clinical musculoskeletal conditions important in daily PM&R practice.

For more details on the curriculum was determined please refer the following paper: Lisk, K., Flannery, J. F., Loh, E. Y., Richardson, D., Agur, A. M.R. and Woods, N. N. (2013). Determination of clinically relevant content for a musculoskeletal anatomy curriculum for physical medicine and rehabilitation residents. Anat Sci Ed. doi: 10.1002/ase.1393