

Enhancing Diabetes Education in the undergraduate-nursing Curriculum

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AIM

The aim of this project was to evaluate the effectiveness of an increased programme of diabetes education within an undergraduate-nursing curriculum.

METHOD

- All teaching time specially focused on diabetes was calculated for the new three-year undergraduate-nursing curriculum.
- New materials were prepared and delivered by specialist nurses either currently working in or who have previously worked in the field of diabetes.
- One-week post an intensive day on diabetes, a sample of second year students were asked to complete a questionnaire to assess their knowledge retention.

RESULTS

- Direct teaching contact time related to diabetes doubled in the first two years of the new curriculum
- 32-second year student nurses completed the questionnaire
 - 85%(n=28) expressed increased confidence in their own understanding of diabetes
 - The majority of students answered questions correctly related to key concepts covered within the education program as highlighted in Figure 3
- All students were aware that insulin's have various durations of action and that HbA1c is used as a marker of diabetes control.

Figure 1. Answers to True and False questions

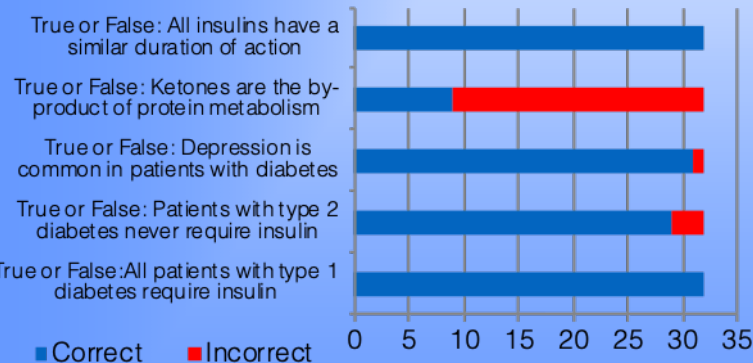


Figure 2. Percentage of student nurses that felt registered nurses were lacking in their knowledge about diabetes.

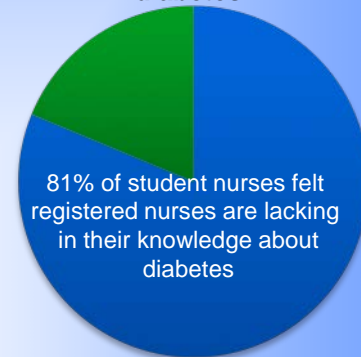
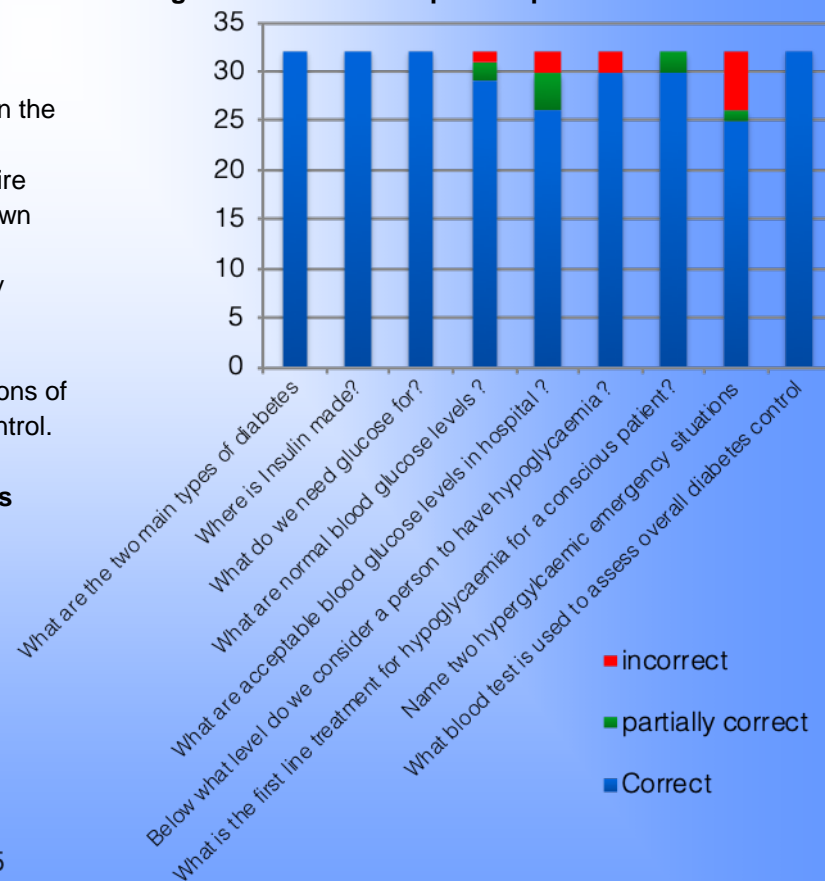


Figure 3. Answers to specific questions about diabetes



CONCLUSION

An enhanced programme of diabetes education within an undergraduate nursing curriculum has improved student nurses understanding of the condition.

Further evaluations are required to assess the longitudinal benefits of an enhanced diabetes programme within the undergraduate nursing curriculum.