



## Preparedness of Australian junior doctors in dermatology

**Background:** Skin disorders are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in Australia. Despite the high prevalence of skin presentations among the Australian population there is currently no national core dermatology curriculum in Australian medical schools. We assessed the self-reported competence of Australian post-graduate year (PGY) 1 and 2 doctors in basic dermatology including diagnosis and management of skin disorders correlated against their undergraduate dermatology exposure.

**Methods:** Junior doctors were surveyed from three hospitals in South Eastern Australia. Questions were based on the learning outcomes defined by the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD). The questionnaire was formed on those used in reported UK studies on self-evaluated competence in dermatology. Information was gathered on previous undergraduate teaching and dermatology confidence including history, examination, diagnosis, investigation and management of skin disorders.

**Results:** A total of 192 junior doctors participated in this study. Most (82%) received training in dermatology and the most common delivery was in a lecture/classroom (75%). The distribution of responses to the knowledge questions varied with about 7% dermatological emergency questions proving to be most difficult. There is little evidence of a relationship between year of study, location and the nature of training received. The majority of participants (79.7%) felt they had not received appropriate dermatology training for the stage in their career.

**Conclusion:** These results suggest that current Australian undergraduate training in dermatology may not prepare junior doctors to perform at a competent level. This should assist in delivering a national undergraduate dermatology curriculum for Australian medical students and junior doctors.

