

Analysis of higher education offer of Pain in Faculty of Medical Sciences in Kragujevac

Faculty of Medical Sciences comprises undergraduate, graduate (doctor of medicine, master of pharmacy and dentistry) and postgraduate (specialist and doctoral studies) education.

In the graduate studies of medicine (full name: *Integrated academic studies for a doctor of medicine*) there are 35 compulsory and 19 optional subjects. The content of lectures, practical training, and what knowledge is expected to be adopted by students after completing every subject is written in corresponding subject curricula.

Specialist studies are conducted in 37 different areas and also the content of lectures and practical training is described in detail in their curricula.

Upon review of curricula of all subjects, concerning graduate studies for doctor of medicine and postgraduate studies, we can clearly see that pain is studied only in a few of them:

Study Field	Name of subject/program	Lectures duration
<i>Integrated academic studies for a doctor of medicine</i>	Resuscitation 2	2 hours of lectures
<i>Postgraduate studies - specialist studies</i>	Clinical pharmacology	10 hours of lectures
	Anesthesiology, resuscitation and intensive therapy	10 hours of lectures

Topic of pain is only mentioned through lectures, with no training required, with exception of anesthesiology, resuscitation and intensive therapy where we have practical training in areas of regional anesthesia which can be of use in chronic pain management (epidural anesthesia, different peripheral nerve blocks), but no formal training in application of those techniques to chronic pain management itself is not required.

Curriculum of Resuscitation 2 is mainly oriented on therapy of acute traumatic pain, with no mention of chronic pain. In Clinical pharmacology the use of analgesic therapy is reviewed only through different theoretical aspects of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of agents commonly in use in pain treatment in general.

Curriculum of subjects that are expected to have topics on pain (internal medicine, oncology, surgery, neurology, gynecology with obstetrics) do not mention treatment of pain at all, be it acute or chronic pain. Physiology and pathophysiology of pain hasn't also been studied in corresponding preclinical subjects.

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Our Faculty also organizes continued medical education, at least once a week. Concerning topic of pain, there was only one 6 hour course, held in May, 2016: – *Basics of pathophysiology, evaluation and treatment of chronic pain.*

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