



ETHICS

## PERCEPTION OF DERMATOLOGY BY MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LOMÉ (TOGO)

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**Introduction:** The aim of our study was to study the perception of dermatology by medical students in the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Lomé and their influencing factors.

**Method:** This is an opinion poll conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2018, within medical students (Grades 5, 6, and 7) of the university's Faculty of Health Sciences.

**Results:** We surveyed 196 medical students, 76 (38.8%) in grade 7 and 61 (31.1%) in grade 6. Among them, only 29.2% had done internships in dermatology and 37.2% said they were interested in dermatology. The majority (70.2%) of students interested in dermatology had already done internships in the department ( $p = 0.0003$ ). Dermatology is a specialty of intermediate difficulty according to 79.6% of the students and 63.8% of the students considered their level of practical knowledge in dermatology weak. Of the 125 students who rated their level of practical knowledge as low in dermatology, 101 had never had any internship in the department ( $p = 0.00001$ ). More than half (56.6%) of students felt they were able to deal with common dermatoses during the course of their general practice and there was a significant association between students doing their traineeship in dermatology and the possibility of taking care of common dermatoses ( $p = 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Medical students at the University of Lomé have little interest in dermatology. But the completion of an internship in dermatology improves this level of perception. This study highlights the importance of internships in dermatology to arouse the students' passion for the specialty.

**Keywords:** Perception, Dermatology, Medical Students

