

Level of Knowledge about Former Disease Terminology and Medical Terms of Medicine Faculty Students

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There are still patients which use obsolete medical terms. People's terminology, rather than the modern terminology, is often used to describe symptoms or diseases. Medical terms can also be replaced with terms inherent to patient's own culture. Seen from this perspective, the knowledge of the former medical terms and the terms used colloquially is very helpful for doctors. The purpose of this study was to investigate the knowledge of former medical terms among the medical students. This study was performed on 102 students of medicine faculty. Students, who gave their consent, were interviewed in a face-to-face fashion. The results of the survey were statistically analyzed.

DOI: [10.12693/APhysPolA.128.B-436](https://doi.org/10.12693/APhysPolA.128.B-436)

PACS: 43.64.Gz, 43.10.Eg

1. Introduction

Turkish medicine is one of the values feeding the Turkish culture [1]. Between the XIVth and XVIth centuries, Turks have written many medical book [2]. Knowledge of old medical terms, is still useful for the modern physicians, because there are still patients, which are using older medical terms. The terms of symptoms of the disease are more often used instead of the disease terms and these can vary with the patient's culture [3]. Therefore, the physicians should be aware of the old medical terms and public language. Computers are being increasingly introduced into clinical medicine with the aim of making the diagnostic procedures more objective. This necessitates a close scrutiny of current medical vocabulary and the interpretation of the common medical terms by patients and doctors [4].

This paper presents the results of a multiple-choice questionnaire survey, designed to evaluate differences between the students of medicine faculty, concerning the former medical terminology.

2. Materials and methods

This study was performed on 102 medical faculty students, with ages between 17 and 28 years old. Students, who gave their consent, were interviewed in a face-to-face fashion. In this study, attitudes and the level of knowledge of the field of the university students were evaluated.

Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS statistical software. Chi-square test was used to compare the classified variables. Significance levels for P value was taken as 0.05.

3. Results

In this study, 102 students of Suleyman Demirel University, School of Medicine were surveyed. Two multiple-choice questionnaires were designed for the survey. Among the participating students 30% believed that "nüzüül" means the stroke, 30% — lung disease, 19% — liver disease, 21% — stomach pain (Fig. 1). When questioned about the "it dirseği" term 89% of them believed that it means "arpacak", 3% — glaucoma, 8% — conjunctivitis (Fig. 2).

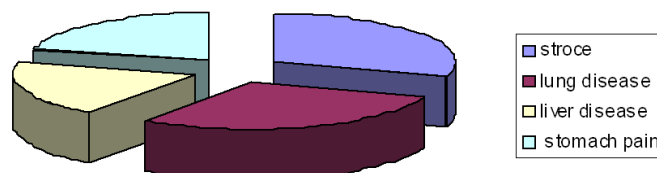


Fig. 1. Interpretation of the "nüzüül" term.

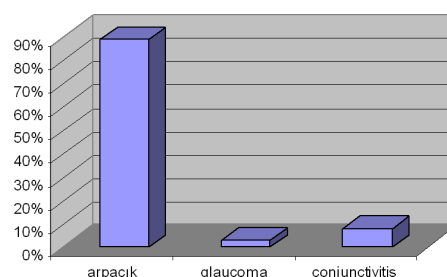


Fig. 2. Interpretation of the "it dirseği" term.

4. Conclusions

Physicians should know the public language and former medical terminology. For that matter, there was not

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sufficient knowledge about former medical terms among the medical students. Doctor candidates, will need a more comprehensive information on this subject, when they will start working with patients.

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