

Development of PBL (Problem Based Learning) in which Japanese hospital pharmacists participate

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Although not early, the clinical pharmacy education in Japan has been gradually and steadily advancing in pharmacy school. However, it is still deficient in cultivating the thinking ability of students about the method of pharmaceutical care to patients. It is necessary for the students to have a pre-experience in assumed clinical situation.

So, we tried to establish the Problem Based Learning (PBL) with the role-playing, in which hospital pharmacists participated, in our clinical pharmacy education. This education type is characterized by problem solution and student participation with positive manner.

In the present study, the process of PBL consisted of grasping the pathological situation as well as the pharmacotherapy of the diseases, extracting the problems in the pharmaceutical care, and discussing them together in small groups, and practicing the role-playing as a pharmacist. In the role-playing, the hospital pharmacists participated as simulated patients. In the scenarios of PBL, diseases such as diabetes mellitus and bronchial asthma were adopted. After the PBL, we carried out questionnaire survey to the students for evaluating the PBL trial. A high evaluation was obtained in this questionnaire from the pharmacy school students, especially in learning the communication skill through the role-playing and cultivating the thinking ability about the pharmaceutical care. From these results, it suggests that the PBL is very useful in the present clinical pharmacy education in Japan.

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