

**ASSESSMENT OF THE THE BENEFIT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE  
TRAINING PROGRAM IN A TEACHING HOSPITAL**

*Lung Wen Tsai<sup>a,c</sup>, Ing Fang Yang<sup>b</sup>, Shyr-Yi Lin<sup>d</sup>, Ten-Fang Yang<sup>c,d</sup>.*

EBM centre of Taipei Medical University hospital<sup>a</sup>, Jen-Chi General Hospital<sup>b</sup>, Graduate Institute of Medical Informatics Taipei Medical University<sup>c</sup>, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei Medical University<sup>d</sup>

**INTRODUCTION:** In Taiwan, an evidence-based medicine training program has already been implemented starting on the first postgraduate year and lasting 3 years. Though many researches point out that it can improve the quality of medical care, to date little data exists on whether the evidence-based medicine training program can alter the behavior or clinical outcomes of the postgraduate year 1 training program. This study was conducted to evaluate whether an evidence-based medicine training program consisting of literature search and critical appraisal could change clinical outcomes.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD:** Five attending physicians from the Department of Internal Medicine and three from the Department of Surgery served as instructors in the training program. Twenty-four medical residents participated as students. An investigation of the quality of evidence in support of therapies before and after the implementation of the evidence-based medicine training program was used to evaluate the benefit.

**INTERVENTION:** An evidence-based medicine training program was provided including an EBM training course of 36-hour sessions, which consisted of an EBM introductory course , a problem-based learning discussion, and searching and critical appraisal skill that utilizes evidence-based resources on the network which was provided by the medical school.

**RESULTS:** The primary outcome of the study was the quality of evidence in support of therapies initiated for the primary diagnoses in 286 consecutive patients admitted during the month before and the month after the intervention. Patients admitted after the implementation of the EBM training program were significantly more likely to receive therapies proven to have Level I evidence (including I<sub>a</sub>, I<sub>b</sub> [65.8% vs 49.1%; p = 0.027]). Quality of evidence for those therapies was significantly more likely to be based on randomized controlled trials(84.3% vs 68.5%; p = .0005).

**CONCLUSIONS:** An EBM training program can significantly improve evidence-based practice patterns in a teaching hospital.

**Keywords:** evidence-based medicine, postgraduate year 1 training program, medical education