

TEACHING OF MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY IN BRAZIL: PROFILE OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS THAT INCLUDE THE SUBJECT IN THEIR CURRICULA

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to map the teaching of Parasitology in medical schools in Brazil. This descriptive study analyzed secondary data from the web data using the descriptors “medical schools, parasitology, curriculum, Brazil”. Of the 447 mapped medical schools, 32.2% were public institutions, 36% were located in the Southeast region, and 9.1% in the North. Among the 201 curricula accessed, 53.7% included the Parasitology course, with 36.1% in public institutions and 63.8% in private ones. Additionally, 58.3% of the institutions offered the course within a single academic term. Teaching methodology, 38.5% delivered the content through theoretical lectures and 19.4% with theoretical-practical approach. Information on the class workload was available for 65 institutions, with a median of 102 class hours and a mode of 80 class hours; for practical lessons, both the median and mode were 40 hours. This study provided insight into how Parasitology is approached in Brazilian medical schools. A greater number of private institutions were observed, with concentrations in the Southeast and South regions of the country. It was found that 53.7% of the analyzed schools offered the Parasitology course; however, workload and teaching methodologies varied significantly. Teaching Parasitology in medical education effectively contributes to combating parasitic diseases by equipping future doctors with the ability to diagnose early, treat, and understand risk factors, transmission mechanisms, and clinical manifestations of parasitic diseases. This study highlighted the need for standardizing both the teaching methodology and workload of Parasitology courses in medical education, as well as the need for curricular revisions to strengthen this subject in Brazilian medical programs. Given the impact of parasitic diseases as a public health issue, such improvements are essential.

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