

LETTER to the EDITOR

Important Doctor-Patient Communication Ability for Chinese Medical Students

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Dear Editor

I read the article by Zhou et al. (2014) which was published in your journal with great interest. In recent years, many Chinese doctors are often victims of terrible violence from patients. Approximately according to the Chinese Medical Doctors' Association, the injury incidents happened to Chinese health-care workers have increased from 57 cases in 2010 to 130 cases in 2013. The deteriorating relationship between health-care providers and patients has made doctor turn into a dangerous job and have effected the employment orientation of the future medical students (Zeng et al., 2013). On November 18 last year, the latest survey of medical graduates released by the MyCOS showed that from December 12, 2012 to January 11, 2013, the medical employment rate of Chinese college graduates decreased rapidly.

Misunderstandings and distrust between doctors and patients is complex social problems. However, many health-care providers should develop and improve their own communication ability and interpersonal skills in the practice of medicine, even in clinical practice of medical students and should measurable assessment this ability to the national medical licensure examinations for Chinese medical students (Deng et al., 2014).

Beneficial patient-physician communication has central clinical functions, including gather information of patients' complain to accurate diagnosis, counsel appropriately, give therapeutic instructions, and establish caring relationships with patients. And the resultant communication has the potential to help regulate patients' emotions and expectations in the delivery of health care, even effect on quality of life among cancer patients (Zhou et al., 2014).

Attentive listening skills in communication style and content, empathy, and use of open-ended questions are some examples of skillful communication. Understanding and practicing these skills is most important to modify doctor's communication style in medical practice.

Communication and interpersonal skills for Chinese doctors, especially young medical student is important, building effective patient-physician communication may help create positive exchanges to defuse negative relationship between doctors and patients.

References

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Yang Chen*, Zi-Nan Zhao, Li-Kun Liu

*Department of Biotechnology, Dalian Medical University, Dalian, China *For correspondence: dlmuyangchen@126.com*