AWARENESS ABOUT RARE DISEASES AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN BULGARIA - PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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Introduction:
Delay in diagnosis is one of the most important problems in rare diseases. Knowledge about rare diseases can be increased during undergraduate education.

Aim:
Assess the awareness of medical students about rare diseases. Suggest approaches and preferences about their knowledge and attitude.

Methodology
Anonymous direct group survey. Including 12 questions, divided into three sections:
1. social-demographic characteristics: -sex, age, course of study.
2. current knowledge about rare diseases.
3. personal opinion about rare diseases.
4. suggestions for improvement.

Results
- Pilot results:
  201 students from 3 different universities in Bulgaria: Plovdiv (69%), Sofia (15%), Varna (16%).
  Students from all courses of education participated in the survey.

Conclusion
- Level of awareness about definition and prevalence of rare diseases is very low.
- Students show interest in increasing their knowledge about rare diseases.
- Actively taking part in research studies.