

A questionnaire for the last semester medical students. What does knowledge about headaches of the future Polish doctors depend on?

Olga Grodzka^{1,2}, Wiktor Łagowski¹, Izabela Domitrz¹

¹Department of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

²Doctoral School, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Background

Among the neurological disorders, headaches are the most common. Primary headaches are much more frequent than secondary headaches, and their diagnosis is based only on official clinical criteria. This can lead to misdiagnosis, which is observed in almost 50% of migraine patients, and thus, incorrect therapy. Therefore, it is crucial to educate future and young doctors in the field of headaches.

Aim

The study aimed to verify the factors influencing the knowledge about headaches in future doctors in the 12th semester of studies.

Methodology

To assess the knowledge of last semester's medical students, a questionnaire was prepared, including 15 questions from three categories: epidemiology, diagnosis, and therapy. Two neurology doctors, a resident and a specialist with a professor degree, prepared the survey, which was then verified by a neurology resident and a neurology specialist, who both answered 100% of the questions correctly. Statistics were done in the GraphPad Prism 10 Program.

Results

82 surveys have been obtained from five different universities. However, it did not affect the results. The following factors were assessed: interests in neurology, examining at least one headache patient during higher education, and self-assessment of headache knowledge. Out of the three assessed factors, only the second one appeared to differ significantly in any of the questions between students performing and not performing a headache patient examination during their studies. Those examining such a patient ever had higher scores on two questions: first one, which type of migraine is more common, episodic or chronic (91.67% vs. 70.59% correct answers, $p=0.0174$), and the second one, to choose the typical features of migraine headache (95.83% vs. 70.59% of correct answers, $p=0.0028$).

study group characteristics



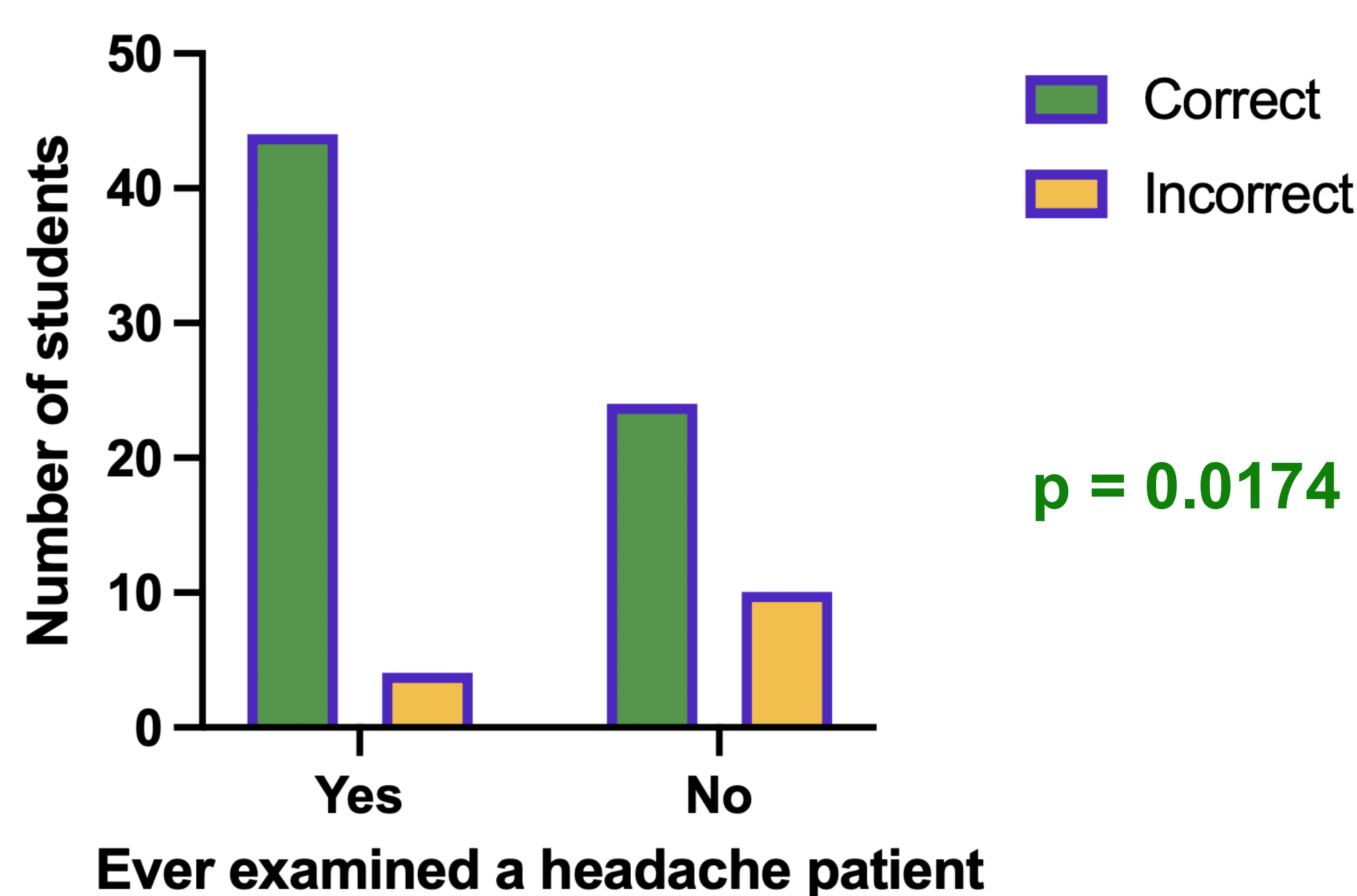
57.3% females
42.7% males

interested in neurology?
19.5% yes
80.5% no

previous headache patient's
examination?
58.5% yes
41.5% no

self-assessment of headache
knowledge?
52.4% excellent or good
47.6% medium or bad

What migraine type (episodic vs chronic) is more frequent?



Conclusions

Students who performed practical examinations of headache patients during their medical education had better knowledge about headaches than those who had never done that. Thus, one of the most essential elements in the education of future doctors is the practice. This highlights the importance of gaining practical experience during the medical education.

Which features set is the most specific for migraine?

