

Application of Role-Play Exercises for Medical Pharmacology Education

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Abstract

Role-play exercises provide the opportunity to play a medical practitioner, the patient, the patient's family member, or a rater based on the case issues in the setting of simulated education. This educational approach, which differs from the type of education in which knowledge is conferred in lecture form, is expected to increase medical student's motivation and ability to communicate. In recent years, role-play exercises have been used to develop educational programs for use in medical departments. At the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka University, role-play exercises were introduced in fiscal year 2012 with "the aim of studying the medication process at an early stage" when providing pharmaceutical education to third-year medical students. Based on the questionnaire survey for the role-play exercises performed in fiscal year 2014, many students reported understanding the purpose of the practice and judged it to be a useful education tool.

Key words: Role-Play Exercise, Pharmacology, Communication, Motivation