

Exploring the Interpretation of the Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (BSAS) among Undergraduate Medical Students

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Abstract

Effectively addressing the sexual health concerns of patients is critical to maintaining and improving overall health for both individuals and communities. Physicians are often limited in their ability to address such patient concerns because of inadequate training. Few methods exist to effectively evaluate the impact of human sexuality and sexual health curricula. This study aimed to validate the use of the Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale among undergraduate medical students as a future means of measuring the impact of various instructional methods. Utilizing focus groups of 1st year medical students and a “think-aloud” methodology, a qualitative thematic analysis was conducted. Early findings indicate the need to modify the current version of the instrument to make it more germane and useful to the

The Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (BSAS) is an instrument previously validated in studies of undergraduate college students and two cohorts of psychology students (Hendrick, Hendrick, & Reich, 2006). Review of the literature demonstrates no previous validation studies in cohorts of undergraduate medical students.

The purpose of this study is to validate the use of the BSAS among undergraduate medical students, a population not previously evaluated. Results from this study will be used to assess the impact of existing human sexuality curricula, both locally and nationally.

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