BACKGROUND

Inherited metabolic diseases (IMDs) are not sufficiently included in the national core-training program of medical faculties in Turkey, although a significant disease burden affects large proportion of the population due to high rate of consanguineous marriages. Vertical integration between basic and clinical sciences for biotinidase deficiency and phenylketonuria with real cases are discussed in 1st grade. In 3rd and 4th grades, only 5 theoretical classes exist for IMDs in medical curriculum of Çukurova University.

RESULTS

14 closed questions were directed at medical students by their peers between 1st - 6th grades. 267 medical students were included. 83 (31 %) were 1st, 54 (20,2 %) were 2nd, 40 (14,6 %) were 3rd, 41 (15,4 %) were 4th, 16 (6 %) were 5th, and 33 (12,7 %) were 6th grades. Overall, the rate of correct answers ranged between 16,3 % and 95,9 %. Statistically significant increase was observed for correct answers about probability of IMDs in adulthood as well as hyperglycemia as a symptom of IMDs with progressing grades (p<0,05). Surprisingly, a negative correlation between progressive grades and awareness about content and timeframe of NBS was detected (p<0,05).

CONCLUSION

Interestingly, in contrast to the expectations, we didn’t observe a significant rise of awareness in IMDs from first to sixth grades, contrarily, there is a partial decrease with progressive classes. So, current medical education may not provide adequate training of IMDs. To ameliorate this situation, the students suggest us to perform not only theoretical classes but also case-based integrated sessions with small groups and more practice in metabolism departments with real cases of IMDs throughout their education.