To the Editors:

Selection of students for admission to a medical school in Sri Lanka [1]

The area of research is timely since selection of students for admission to medical schools has received much attention recently. Selection criteria need to be examined in relation to outcome, success in the medical course being one such outcome. The population for such an investigation has necessarily to be the total cohort (or better still, cohorts) of students who gain entry to all medical schools in a given year (or years). This is so because of the differential distribution of the different “quotas” and criteria for selection in medical schools.

It is noted that in the medical school selected for study, the variation observed in the independent variables (predictors) is very small. This is likely to be a function of the distribution of the “quotas” in the selected school, highlighting the need for studying those who are admitted to all six medical schools as one group. Absence of information on some important predictors such as proficiency in English language and the number of attempts at the Advanced Level examination adds to the difficulties of examining this relationship.

The above aspects are mentioned in passing in the discussion. However, the limitations in generalizing the results to all admissions to medical schools are not sufficiently dealt with and thus, the article is liable to misinterpretation. This would harm a meaningful debate on the appropriateness of current admission criteria, negating the intentions of the researchers.

Reference


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To the Editors:

In reply:

Intravenous magnesium sulphate in asthma: current recommendations

I appreciate the view of Dr. BJC Perera, Consultant Paediatrician on the above subject in his letter to the Editors in the CMJ 2004;49:103.

The column on “From the journals” usually includes summaries of journal articles. The references of the articles are included for readers who need details. This particular article on magnesium sulphate in asthma in the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin has quoted 14 references, which include 3 meta-analysis and 4 randomised controlled trials. Two of the six references quoted in Dr. Perera’s letter (references 3 and 6) have also been considered in my article.

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To the Editors:

Good postgraduate trainers should be rewarded

Plans are underway for the postgraduate medical education (PGME) of Sri Lanka to move from the traditional apprenticeship style to an appraisal based training system. Several speciality Boards of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) have already formulated necessary changes. Further changes in PGME in the form of quality assurance measures may be introduced in the near future [1]. Quite rightly, standards of training must be upheld and be shown to be upheld.

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