

Attitudes, skills, and use of evidence-based practice among French osteopathy students: *A cross-sectional survey led in three educational institutions.*

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Abstract

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) is an integral part of future healthcare professionals' training programs. However, its implementation in osteopathic education is still controversial and most traditional models are now being challenged. Students are confronted with new identity challenges trying to find a way between osteopathic legacy and evidence. This study explored the attitudes, skills, and use of EBP among French osteopathy students.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among Year 3 to Year 5 osteopathy students (n=701) from three French educational institutions between October and December 2023. Participants were invited to complete the Evidence-Based Practice Attitude and Utilization Survey (EBASE), which had been adapted for students (EBASE-FrStu) from a previous French translation (EBASE-Fr).

In the EBASE-FrStu survey, 584 students participated, resulting in an 84% participation rate. The majority of respondents (73%) displayed a positive attitude towards EBP. Additionally, 88% of students expressed a desire to improve their EBP skills and slightly over half (58%) believed that EBP aids them in making decisions about patient care. However, despite the enthusiasm for EBP, the majority of respondents reported a low percentage of EBP implementation in their clinical practice (80%).

Preliminary results showed that French osteopathic students have a positive attitude towards EBP, but their current skills do not allow them to fully integrate EBP into their clinical management. These findings point to the extent of work that still needs to be done in order to better implement evidence-based practice into the osteopathic educational curriculum.

KEYWORDS

osteopathic model / evidence-based practice / education / surveys and questionnaires