

Training in research methodology and the use of evidence-based practice by AIMO graduates: a cross sectional study.

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Background. Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the reference model for clinical reasoning in the health professions. In recent years, osteopaths have also incorporated EBP principles into their professional practice, and several studies have investigated facilitators and barriers to the use of EBP among osteopaths (Weber et al., 2018; Fernández-Domínguez, et al., 2020; Cerritelli et al., 2021). Osteopathic schools, often associated with traditional teaching, have increasingly included research methodology in their curriculum (Fryer, 2008). This cross-sectional study aims to investigate how different educational pathways (DO, BSc and Master's), with increasing levels of taught research skills, may influence the Evidence-Based Practice Attitude and Utilisation Survey (EBASE) questionnaire scores in the AIMO graduate population.

Methods. From February 2023 to May 2023, the EBASE-Italian version was administered to all AIMO graduates. In addition to the three EBASE sub-scores (attitudes, skills and utilisation), we considered the demographic characteristics of the sample, in particular the educational qualification obtained and any teaching activity. We used a linear regression model to explore the correlations between these variables and the EBASE-I scores.

Results. 107 osteopaths out of 449 graduates answered the questionnaire. No significant correlation with course of study was found. The only condition significantly associated with all domains of the questionnaire was membership of the AIMO research group.

Conclusion. In conclusion, despite the limited sample size of one school, the results partially confirm the findings at the national level: the use of EBP is facilitated for those who are actively engaged in research.

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