DOES THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN TAMHIDI COURSE PREDICT THE PERFORMANCE IN PRE-CLINICAL COURSE? - A PRELIMINARY CORRELATION STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING IN UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA

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Background:
The academic scores of foundation year(s) are commonly used to select eligible undergraduate students to enter medical school. The medical curriculum assumes successful completion of foundation courses will have a positive impact on students' performance during medical programme. The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between Tamhidi (foundation) subjects and End of Semester 1 pre-clinical subjects during Year 1 medical programme in Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

Materials and Methods:
All students who have completed Tamhidi programme and entered Year 1 medical programme for the session 2010/2011 were included (n=52). Marks from Semester 1 and 2 for Chemistry and Biology (Tamhidi), as well as marks from Year 1 End of Semester 1 for Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology (pre-clinical) were retrieved. The semester marks for each Tamhidi subject comprised the marks for continuous assessment (40%) and final semester examination (60%). The final marks for each Tamhidi subject were taken as an average from both semesters. For pre-clinical subjects, the final marks of each subject were calculated by adding continuous assessment (30%) and End of Semester 1 examination (70%). The correlation between Chemistry & Biochemistry, Biology & Anatomy, Biology & Biochemistry and, Biology & Physiology were analysed.

Results:
The study population comprised 21 male and 31 female students. The Pearson correlation was highest between Physiology & Biology (r=0.665; good correlation). This was followed by Anatomy & Biology (r=0.590; moderate correlation), and Biochemistry & Biology (r=0.581; moderate correlation). The lowest correlation was between Biochemistry & Chemistry (r=0.504; moderate correlation).

Conclusion:
The study suggests a positive relationship between Tamhidi scores and students' performance in the first year of medical school. Performance in foundation studies may be useful in predicting the performance of medical students during pre-clinical years.

Keywords:
medical education, Tamhidi (foundation), pre-clinical

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