Dermatologic conditions in different Fitzpatrick skin types disproportionately affect minorities associated with darker skin types, disproportionately affecting disparities in dermatologic care. Published studies have queried medical student's recognition of skin conditions in different skin types. However, no similar studies have been published evaluating the abilities or comfort level of dermatology residents in diagnosing common dermatologic conditions in different Fitzpatrick skin types.

Methods

- Distributed an online survey to new first-year dermatology residents at US ACGME-accredited dermatology programs
- Participants were shown 20 photographs of common dermatologic conditions in patients of varying Fitzpatrick skin types
- For each image, participants selected a diagnosis from a drop-down menu and rated their confidence in each diagnosis from 1 ("Not Confident at All") to 5 ("Very Confident")
- Participants also reported their confidence in diagnosing common dermatologic conditions in skin of color
- Survey did not fully represent the spectrum or prevalence of skin conditions seen in the practice of dermatology
- The number of common skin conditions in the survey was limited out of consideration for the time
- The small sample size may have skewed the results

Results

- Accuracy and Confidence Among New First-year Dermatology Residents in the Diagnosis of Common Dermatologic Conditions in Different Fitzpatrick Skin Types
- The survey.

Limitations

- The small sample size may have skewed the results
- Participants were shown 20 photographs of common dermatologic conditions in patients of varying Fitzpatrick skin types
- The number of common skin conditions in the survey was limited out of consideration for the time
- Survey did not fully represent the spectrum or prevalence of skin conditions seen in the practice of dermatology

Conclusions

- New dermatology residents diagnose common dermatologic conditions in darker skin with less accuracy and confidence than in lighter skin
- There is a lack of statistical significance with participants' demographics and background characteristics

References