# MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY AMONG CLINICAL STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR

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**Introduction:** Bloodless Medicine and Surgery (BMS) refers to clinical care without allogeneic blood transfusion. It involves the application of blood conservation strategies to avoid allogeneic blood transfusion with the aim of improving patient treatment outcomes. Studies have also shown that BMS principles are appropriate and safe for all patients.

**Aim of study:** To investigate medical and dental students' knowledge, perception and attitude towards bloodless medicine and surgery (BMS).

**Materials and methods**: The study was designed and conducted as a descriptive cross- sectional study. Google online survey form was used to elicit responses on socio-demographic data, knowledge, attitude and perception towards BMS from 164 respondents made up of medical and dental students in clinical years 1, 2 and 3 in the College of Medical Sciences, University of Calabar.

**Result**: From our study, 161 (98.2%) were aware of BMS. Out of the study population 114 (69.5%) had basic knowledge about BMS. Major sources of knowledge were classroom lectures and BMS conferences. The largest proportion of the participants, 125 (76.2%), perceived BMS to be an evidence-based standard of care. However, 60 (36.6%) felt it is moderately important in patient management and 31(18.9%) felt it is not important in patient management. Twenty-four respondents (77.4%) felt BMS is associated with a religious movement while 7 (22.6%) were of the perception that its concepts are not scientifically proven. Sixty-nine respondents (42.0%) were of the view that BMS does not enhances fast patient recovery. On the assessment of attitude, 70 (42.7%) opined not to recommend BMS to patients and relatives.

**Conclusion**: Our study revealed that the vast majority of medical and dental students in the College of Medical Sciences, University of Calabar were aware of BMS. However, this did not translate into changing their attitude and perception towards BMS as evidenced by the fact that a greater percentage felt that it was associated with a religious movement, does not enhance faster patient recovery and would not recommend BMS to patients and relatives. We recommend that continuous exposure to this subject as well as research evidence showing the benefits of BMS be given to medical and dental students.

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**Abstract track:** Education in Bloodless Medicine and Surgery