Practice Research

Family doctors: their choice of practice strategy

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Abstract

The practice decisions taken by family doctors in one family practice area were studied. The study was a prospective, observational one, in which the most recent data were used to examine the practice decisions of the doctors. The data were collected by a professional research observer who visited each practice on the last day of the month and then later visited each practice on the last day of the following month. The data were collected on the type of practice decisions taken by the doctors, the type of patients seen by the doctors, and the type of treatment given to the patients. The data were then analyzed using a statistical program to determine the factors that influence the practice decisions taken by the doctors.

Introduction

Family doctors are the most important link between the individual and the health care system. Their role is to provide care for patients of all ages, to screen for diseases, to monitor chronic conditions, and to refer patients to specialists when necessary. The doctors' decisions are influenced by a variety of factors, including the availability of services, the patients' needs, and the doctors' personal preferences.

Methods

The study was a prospective, observational one, in which the most recent data were used to examine the practice decisions of the doctors. The data were collected by a professional research observer who visited each practice on the last day of the month and then later visited each practice on the last day of the following month. The data were collected on the type of practice decisions taken by the doctors, the type of patients seen by the doctors, and the type of treatment given to the patients. The data were then analyzed using a statistical program to determine the factors that influence the practice decisions taken by the doctors.

Results

The results of this study showed that family doctors are influenced by a variety of factors when making practice decisions. The factors that influence the practice decisions taken by the doctors include the availability of services, the patients' needs, and the doctors' personal preferences. The availability of services is a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. If services are not available, the doctors may choose not to provide care for patients who need it. The patients' needs are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors are more likely to provide care for patients who have a specific need than for patients who do not. The doctors' personal preferences are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors may choose to provide care for patients who fit their personal preferences, even if the patients need something else.

Discussion

The results of this study showed that family doctors are influenced by a variety of factors when making practice decisions. The factors that influence the practice decisions taken by the doctors include the availability of services, the patients' needs, and the doctors' personal preferences. The availability of services is a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. If services are not available, the doctors may choose not to provide care for patients who need it. The patients' needs are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors are more likely to provide care for patients who have a specific need than for patients who do not. The doctors' personal preferences are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors may choose to provide care for patients who fit their personal preferences, even if the patients need something else.

Conclusion

The results of this study showed that family doctors are influenced by a variety of factors when making practice decisions. The factors that influence the practice decisions taken by the doctors include the availability of services, the patients' needs, and the doctors' personal preferences. The availability of services is a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. If services are not available, the doctors may choose not to provide care for patients who need it. The patients' needs are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors are more likely to provide care for patients who have a specific need than for patients who do not. The doctors' personal preferences are also a major factor that influences the practice decisions taken by the doctors. The doctors may choose to provide care for patients who fit their personal preferences, even if the patients need something else.

Randomised controlled trial of computer assisted management of hypertension in primary care

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Abstract

The hypothesis that general practitioners would achieve better outcomes for patients with hypertension using a computer assisted management system was tested in a randomised controlled trial. In two general practices, randomised computer generated lists were used to allocate patients to a computer assisted hypertension management system or to usual care. Patients were followed up at 6 months, and the mean blood pressure was lower in the computer assisted group than in the usual care group.

Introduction

Computerised systems have been used to help doctors and practices. Much work has been done to assess a computer assisted management of hypertension, but relatively few studies have been conducted to assess the benefit of computer assisted management. The trials have been carried out in general practices where the doctors used the computer assisted system. The results of these trials have shown that the computer assisted system results in a lower mean blood pressure than the usual care system. The trials have also shown that the computer assisted system is more cost-effective than the usual care system.

The hypothesis that general practitioners would achieve better outcomes for patients with hypertension using a computer assisted management system was tested in a randomised controlled trial. In two general practices, randomised computer generated lists were used to allocate patients to a computer assisted hypertension management system or to usual care. Patients were followed up at 6 months, and the mean blood pressure was lower in the computer assisted group than in the usual care group.

Discussion

The results of this study showed that computer assisted management of hypertension is a more effective and cost-effective way of managing hypertension than usual care. The results also showed that the computer assisted management system is more acceptable to patients than the usual care system. The results of this study have important implications for the future management of hypertension in primary care.