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Title: Alarming decline in recognition of anatomical structures amongst medical students and physicians

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TITLE: “Alarming decline in recognition of anatomical structures amongst medical students and physicians”

Running title: Competency in recognition of anatomical structures

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ABSTRACT: Background: Insufficient anatomical training can put patients’ safety at risk. The aim of this study was to assess the proficiency of medical students and physicians in identifying labelled anatomical structures. The second aim of the study was to evaluate factors that can affect this recognition. **Methods:** An internet-based survey where participants had to correctly identify labelled anatomical structures on cadaveric specimens was designed. **Results:** The study group included 1186 participants (58.7% females): 931 medical students and 255 medical graduates from all twelve Polish medical schools. The mean total survey score for the entire study group was 65.6%. Students gained significantly higher results than graduates (total: 67.3% vs. 59.5%, $P < 0.001$); 331 (27.9%) participants did not pass the test

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