

**Effects of different forms of continuing education on factual knowledge of
General Practitioners about Heart Failure – evaluation of a RCT**

F. Peters-Klimm, M.D., *T. Mueller-Tasch, M.D., *J.-H. Schultz, M.D., *C. Nikendei,
M.D., *A. Moeltner, PhD, A. Barth, *N. Holzapfel, M.A., **A. Remppis, M.D., J.
Szecsenyi, M.D., MSc, *J. Juenger, M.D.,

Department of General Practice and Health Services Research,

* Department of Psychosomatic and General Internal Medicine, ** Department of
Cardiology, Angiology and Pneumology

University of Heidelberg, Germany

Corresponding author:

Dr. Frank Peters-Klimm

Department of General Practice and Health Services Research

University of Heidelberg

Voßstraße 2

69115 Heidelberg

Germany

Phone: ++49-6221-566206

Fax: ++49-6221-561972

e-mail: Frank.Peters@med.uni-heidelberg.de

Abstract (max 200 words)

Background:

To evaluate the efficacy of an innovative concept for training General Practitioners (GPs) to improve the management of patients with congestive heart failure, the difference in factual knowledge of GPs was assessed in a RCT by multiple choice questions (MCQ) 6 months after training.

Work done:

17 GPs (intervention group I) participated in a multidisciplinary, interactive and didactic training course including standardized patient encounters. 15 GPs (intervention group II) received a didactic lecture by a cardiologist. A group of 13 GPs served as control.

A blueprint covering guideline content was used to generate 60 MCQs with cardiologic and psychosomatic content, which resulted in 40 MCQs after panel review. Applying objective criteria for item difficulty and discrimination, 26 questions remained for assessment (MCQ-test). Internal consistency of the MCQ-test was >0.7 . Results: GPs from intervention group I had significantly more correct answers in psychosomatic questions than GPs from the lecture or control group. Both intervention groups did not differ in cardiological questions but showed significantly better results than controls.

Conclusion and take home message:

Factual knowledge (MCQ) of psychosomatic aspects concerning heart failure seems to be better comprehended if trained rather than taught while cardiological content was taught efficiently by lecture alone.