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Title: Smoking cessation practice in male versus female family physicians in Turkey

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Body: BACKGROUND: To examine the effect of sex of family physicians in smoking cessation practice METHODS: The sub-group analysis of a multi-center, cross-sectional, self-administered questionnaire study among 1185 family physicians (FP) on effect of gender of doctors in smoking cessation practice was performed. RESULTS: 42.8% of FP participating were female. Percentages of current smokers in males and females were 31.6% and 37.3%; respectively. Cessation rates were higher for male (17.2% and 11.6%). (P=0,000). Years of smoking was higher among female (16.53 and 13.43) (p=0.000). Females (58.6%) received training on smoking cessation practice higher than men (p=0.02). There was no relationship between gender of doctor and felt ready for smoking cessation process (p=0.539). Former smoker female doctors felt themselves more ready than never and current smokers females (p= 0.005). There is no relationship between gender and asking smoking status but never smoker male doctors were asking smoking status more (p=0.001). Doctors smoking status and incidence of asking smoking in both sexes were analyzed separately. In both sexes never and former smokers were more asking than the others however, only males accounted for a statistically significant difference (p=0.016). Postgraduate training was the main effecting factor for "ask" (p<0,0001) CONCLUSIONS: Among the participants current smokers were high in both sexes. Female physicians are more resistant to smoking cessation; more participated in postgraduate training programs; about smoking cessation. Female physicians who gave up smoking feel themselves ready for smoking cessation intervention. Main factor to ask and advise is postgraduate training.