

Why research in primary care is important

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As an academic supervising postgraduate students in family medicine, I have often observed the difficulties faced by the doctors in conducting the research aspect of their training. Research can seem daunting and strange to doctors who are more familiar learning their clinical skills from books and teachers. Local research has shown that our primary care doctors find it hard to use evidence let alone conduct research.^{1,2}

Research in primary care is important because of three main reasons. Firstly, research is necessary for us to constantly question our practice and reduce complacency. Secondly, findings from research allow us to progress and improve patient care. And finally, doing research makes us better translators of evidence. It is only with experience conducting research that we can understand how difficult it is to do carry out good quality research. We become better critics and evidence based practitioners.

The Malaysian Family Physician is committed to highlighting research in primary care. Although the article by Ahmad Sharoni SK et al was conducted in a hospital, the issues highlighted are relevant to our discipline.³ Logakodie S et al conducted research on gestational diabetes in antenatal mothers who attended 72 primary care clinics.⁴ Our board of editors hopes that this journal will contribute to the promotion of primary care research.

References

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