

Pharmapoly, game as a teaching strategy in pharmacology classes



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Background

The field of pharmacology is an area in medicine that is growing day by day, due to number of drugs that are approved each year. This makes teaching a challenge for both the teacher and students to achieve motivation and knowledge that will last (1, 2, 3)

Objective

The aim of this paper is the incorporation of games as a teaching strategy in pharmacology classes, through the development of a material called *Pharmapoly*

Materials

Using the principles of the game called *Monopoly*, we developed a board with eighteen squares (figure 1), with the following divisions a) pharmacological letter (7 squares); b) name of top pharmacologists due to their discoveries (7 squares), and c) 4 general squares. Cards and dices to play are related to the area of pharmacology.

Each pharmacologist has assigned a question related to the objective of the class and for the pharmacological letter has assigned a question for the previous class. List of questions are available for the objective of the class such as: research and development, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, which must be answered correctly by students to advance and finish with the highest number of pharmacologists in their possession.

Conclusions

The teaching of pharmacology can be facilitated by the incorporation of methodologies such as educational games, which complement any teaching activity and generate continuous motivation in students.

Currently the version is in Spanish and we are in the process of translation into English. The further evaluation in a curriculum project will allow the implementation of this model as a teaching aid.

Acknowledgments

The sponsor of this project was University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

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|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Exit | Pharmacological letter | Sir James Black | John Vane | Pharmacological letter | Jail |
| ↓ Paracelso | PHARMAPOLY | | | | Jose Celestino Mutis |
| Pharmacological letter | | | | | Pharmacological letter |
| Francois Magendie | | | | | John Jacob Abel |
| Stop | Pharmacological letter | Rudolph Buchheim | Pharmacological letter | Pharmacological letter | Go to jail |

Figure 1. Board with eighteen squares

Results

During the 1st half of 2009 it was made a pilot with 43 students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Los Andes in Colombia, with the module of pharmacodynamics. The comments at the end of the module by students were:

1. It was fun,
2. we have learned a lot, and
3. we want to continue playing and learning.

References

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