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► **To cite this version:**

Emilie Auditeau, Marion Vergonjeanne, Euloge Ibinga, Edgard Ngoungou, Maryse Houinato, et al.. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) about neurocognitive disorders of health students in Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMICs): preliminary results from two Sub-Saharan African Countries. 35th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, Jun 2022, LONDRES, United Kingdom. hal-04127194

HAL Id: hal-04127194

<https://unilim.hal.science/hal-04127194>

Submitted on 13 Jun 2023

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Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) about neurocognitive disorders of health students in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) : preliminary results from two Sub-Saharan African Countries

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Context of the study

- Increasing number of people living with neurocognitive disorders (dementia), epilepsy or mental health disorders : a worldwide challenge, especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)
- Very few published studies about KAPs in dementia, compared to other major chronic diseases such as epilepsy (Souza *et al.*, 2018; Vodougnon *et al.*, 2019)
- These studies aim to help Universities complete and improve curriculum: future healthcare professionals are prepared to take on the challenges of dementia in everyday practice.

Objectives

- To evaluate knowledge, attitudes and practices of future doctors, pharmacists and nurses in 12 LMICs
- To present the KAPs results on neurocognitive disorders (dementia) of Gabon and Benin

Methods

Type	Cross sectional survey
Data collection	Questionnaires designed by national experts in France Developed in French, English, Spanish, Lao and Khmer versions Self-administered questionnaire linked to a database management system
Sample	All students in the last year of medicine, pharmacy and nurse studies
Tools	Socio demographic information 4 domains : knowledge (K) , attitudes (A), practices (P) and a specialized domain (MSP, PhSp, NSp) 5 questions per domain : total of 20 main questions Secondary questions are not included in the main score
Guidelines	STROBE initiative for observational studies in epidemiology



Gabon
February 2020

Benin
August 2021

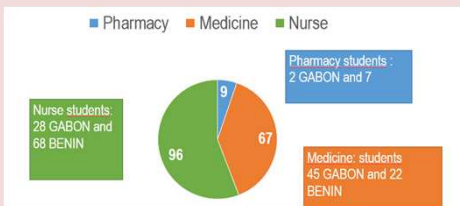
French version of the KAPs study on the University campuses in collaboration with local teachers

Figure. Francophone Digital Campus in Gabon (Omar Bongo University)

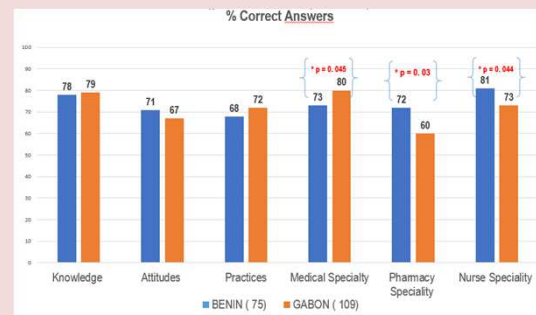
Results

Study population

- A total of 172 students participated, 75 from Gabon and 109 from Benin
- Students in Gabon were older ($p < 0.0001$), and more often female ($p = 0.005$)
- More informed about dementia in Gabon ($p = 0.02$)
- In both countries, approximately half of the students had been in contact with a person living with dementia (61% and 52 %, $p = 0.23$)



KAPs score



- Global scores in K, A and P were good to very good : 67% to 79% correct answers (without differences between Gabon-and Benin)
- Medicine students scored better in Gabon than in Benin ($p=0.04$) and pharmacy and nurses students scored better in Benin than in Gabon ($p=0.03$ and $p=0.04$)

Discussion

- These first results in Gabon and Benin show good and very good global scores
- The ongoing KAPs study is planned to take place in 9 to 12 LMIC from 2021 to 2023
- Other African countries are involved (Cameroun and Madagascar), as well as South American and South-Eastern Asian countries (see map)



Perspectives

- A DELPHI survey is planned with experts on a national and on a regional level to establish recommendations
- Participation is still available for other countries who wish to get involved