OBJECTIVES: 1) Determine the amount of exposure to otolaryngology in medical training of non-otolaryngology residents. 2) Evaluate the knowledge of otolaryngology in these residents.

INTRODUCTION

A total of 104 exams were received with 5 removed as they were completed by residents in departments other than family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, and otolaryngology. Questions were formulated to examine otolaryngology issues in a primary care setting that non-otolaryngology trainees should be able to answer. As the complexities of medical education intensify and the demands for more general practitioners increase, formal exposure to the otolaryngology specialty in the general medical training curriculum will become more necessary. Non-traditional methods of teaching otolaryngologic content in the education curriculum may become necessary. Computerized simulation cases, webcasts, and other on-line training modules should be explored.

RESULTS

Otolaryngology residents answered 92% of the questions correctly. Non-otolaryngology residents and MS2 had a statistically significant difference (p<0.001). The same amount (24%) had a rotation during medical school.

CONCLUSIONS

To our knowledge, this is the first study attempting to quantify the knowledge of basic otolaryngology concepts of primary care residents and comparing it with otolaryngology residents. The results of this study support the increasing literature concluding that primary care providers need more exposure to and training in otolaryngology. Although primary care providers see a large number of otolaryngologic complaints in daily practice, formal training may be lacking in basic otolaryngology concepts. The findings in this study support the increasing literature concluding that primary care providers need more exposure to and training in otolaryngology.

REFERENCES