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Conscious sedation in Spanish Dental Schools: Current Situation

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Introduction: The current Spanish curricula for degrees in dentistry include conscious sedation (CS) as a basic training competency. However, is the CS training delivered by Spanish dental schools a consensus-based educational framework enabling students to use this anaesthetic technique after graduation? To answer this research question, a study was designed aiming to identify the strategies used to teach this competency in Spanish dental schools and the characteristics of teaching.

Materials and methods: The authors reviewed legislation concerning officially established requirements for a degree in dentistry as well as curricula currently taught in Spain.

Results: Our analysis identified clear discrepancies among the schools of dentistry studied. The only overlap was observed in

reference to the level of proficiency imparted, which prevents Spanish dentistry students from using this anaesthetic technique after graduation.

Discussion and Conclusions: Specific features of the normative framework and of the Spanish legislative system underlying the design of the present curricula of degrees in dentistry would explain the discrepancies in CS competencies taught at our schools of dentistry. Almost 10 years since its implementation and in light of the new demands of the complex society in which we live, Spanish universities must unify their educational criteria regarding CS training to ensure the appropriate qualification of our new dentists in this technique.

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