Onychomycosis is an infection of the nail plate that affects 9% to 12% of the US population and accounts for $2.26 billion in healthcare spending annually.1,2 Despite its increasing prevalence and recent improvements in diagnosis and newly approved treatments, onychomycosis remains often overlooked and/or undertreated and is a major public health concern because of its impact on health and quality of life.3,4 In addition, some clinicians are unaware of the effectiveness of nail treatment currently available, and significant gaps remain in diagnosis and management, which may contribute to suboptimal patient outcomes.3,5 This study assessed whether an online continuing medical education (CME) curriculum in onychomycosis can improve the knowledge and competence of dermatologists and primary care physicians (PCPs) who manage patients with this condition.

### Study Objectives

The study had three main objectives:

1. **EFFECTS OF AN ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM ON KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE IN MANAGING ONYCHOMYCOSIS**

   - **RESULTS:**
     - **On average, after all of CME activities, both dermatologists (n=559) improved from 66% to 81% (P<.05) and an average of 47% of PCPs answered correctly on pre-assessment, increasing to 76% post-assessment (P<.05) (Figures 1 and 4).**
     - **B) You should see a change in your toenails in a few months. With continued daily treatment, you can expect to see clear nails within 6 months.**
     - **Onychomycosis is caused by a fungus. Without treatment, the infection could spread or your toenails might become more sensitive to touch and cause more discomfort and embarrassment.**
     - **Your condition is caused by an infection with a fungus. Without treatment, the infection could spread or your toenails might become more sensitive to touch and cause more discomfort and embarrassment.**
     - **You should see a change in your toenails in a few months. With continued daily treatment, you can expect to see clear nails within 6 months.**
     - **Onychomycosis is caused by a fungus. Without treatment, the infection could spread or your toenails might become more sensitive to touch and cause more discomfort and embarrassment.**
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     - **You should see a change in your toenails in a few months. With continued daily treatment, you can expect to see clear nails within 6 months.**

### Assessment Methods

- **Measurement of the effectiveness of each of the online CME programs was assessed via the administration of online surveys.**
- **Linked participants (ie, the learner, who served as their own controls, were pre-assessed with a set of 3 or 4 performance assessment questions before exposure to the CME.**
- **Individual scores from each CME activity were then grouped and analyzed by critical themes in onychomycosis, including knowledge of epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment expectations, pathophysiology, and treatment expectations.**

### INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

A text-based clinical monograph, illustrating provider-patient encounters, was presented as a primarily text-based instructional method. For more information, contact Jovana Lubarda, PhD, Associate Director, Educational Strategy, Medscape LLC, 733 Madison Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10022. (Telephone: 212-207-1178; Fax: 212-795-9017; Email: For more information, contact Jovana Lubarda, PhD, Associate Director, Educational Strategy, Medscape LLC, 733 Madison Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10022. (Telephone: 212-207-1178; Fax: 212-795-9017; Email: Jovana.Lubarda@medscape.com

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### References