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AMBIGUITY TOLERANCE IN STUDENTS ENTERING MEDICAL SCHOOL (SHIRAZ-2006)

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Introduction: The ability to tolerate uncertainty or ambiguity was first identified as a stable personality variable by Budner (1962) who defined it as an individual's propensity to view ambiguous situation as either threatening or desirable.

Objectives: We tried to measure ambiguity tolerance of medical students and compare the scale according to age, major and medical speciality preference.

Method: By a questionnaire designed by Budner(Budner Ambiguity Scale), we measured the ambiguity tolerance of 240students entering medical school .

Results: Analysis of data showed significant difference between men and women (60.81, 63.24). We found no difference of ambiguity tolerance according to the other variables.

Conclusion: These data show the higher degree of ambiguity intolerance among Iranian students compared to the levels reported by Budner(44-48).Proper education could lead to better understanding of own potentiality in the students. Ambiguity tolerance may be an important variable to assess and train so that students are better prepared for unstructured situations that promote thinking and parallel the complexities of the applied world.