An online dermatology curriculum significantly improves dermatology knowledge among medical students taking an introductory dermatology clerkship, according to research published in the August issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Sarah D. Cipriano, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, and colleagues assessed a standardized online dermatology curriculum (18 modules at a rate of one to three per day) developed by the American Academy of Dermatology. Participants included 51 fourth-year medical students taking a two-week introductory dermatology clerkship.

The researchers found that dermatology knowledge improved significantly among all participants after taking the curriculum. Nearly all students said that the online modules were easy to navigate and worth their time, and all wanted to continue the modules during their clerkship.

"Widespread use of this curriculum may be a significant advancement in standardized dermatology learning for medical students," Cipriano and colleagues write.