

Title: OSCE and assessment of clinical skills

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Context and setting: The Final Exit examination (Summative Assessment) for the three-year Diplomate National Residency Board was designed to include traditional long case, short case, and oral viva voce. This assessment scheme has now been modified to include OSCE which replaces the long case and viva voce. The OSCE and short case assessment is simultaneously used in single setting for summative assessment of the residents in pediatrics.

Why the idea was necessary: The previous observations of the assessment raised concerns about examiner variability, standardization, and uniformity of assessment in a multi examination centre setup.

What was done: A total of 163 candidates who had completed three-year residencies in Paediatrics and had also qualified a written structured short notes-based test were assessed for their knowledge and clinical skills.

Test Development: The conventional examination was modified and 25 OSCE stations were designed to test the components of applied knowledge, clinical skills, communication skills, and patient management skills thereby replacing the component of long case and viva voce. This accounted for 50% of the total scores. The remaining 50% of the scores comprised of global assessment of candidates on examination of clinical cases followed by encounter with four examiners.

Examiner induction and training: The examiners inducted had prior experience and had undergone thorough training in this format.

Checklist for clinical skills: A checklist for observation of the candidates' performance of the skills at the OSCE station was prepared and the marking scheme for all stations was developed.

Simulated Cases: In certain stations, simulated subjects were introduced as simulated cases/patients with prior training.

Validity: The test blueprint was designed to cover the essential areas of the curriculum and ensure Content Validity, the quality of items was ensured through validation by specialty experts and evidence sourced to standard text/literature. Response process and correlation with other variables was undertaken for construct validity. Examinee feedback was also obtained as per structured questionnaire.

Evaluation of results and impact: The scores obtained by the candidates in OSCE correlated well with their scores in the global assessment undertaken concurrently in the same setting. The reliability of OSCE for various components assessed is high. The total OSCE score correlated

significantly with the total score of the concurrent summative evaluations. The study is an attempt to assess the impact of creating a standardized platform for assessment having acceptable validity and reliability at the postgraduate level. This model could be successfully implemented for formative and summative assessment of other residency programmes.

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