5 Year Review of OSCE for the 2nd Part of Licensing Examination in S. Korea

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Part I: a written test, and Part II: clinical skill test

Written test: yearly in January

Clinical skill test:

12 station OSCE since 2010

administered over the course of 3 months

September to early December

the clinical skill test center located in the NHPLEB
The Driving Force and Aim of OSCE

- The aim of OSCE was to improve the clinical education
- National consensus on the chronic deficiency of generic clinical skill
- An antiquated, obsolete clerkship program
- Nonexistent communication skills
- The accreditation standards
  - Skill training and its facilities
  - Communication skill
  - Comprehensive clinical examination
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. stations</th>
<th>Score allotment</th>
<th>Test duration per station</th>
<th>Rater</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>600 (100 per item)</td>
<td>10 minutes ※Inter-station test: Extra 5 minutes per item</td>
<td>2 SPs Acting: PPI Observer: H/x, P/Ex, Edu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>300 (50 per item)</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>Medical faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 hours 37 minutes</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Test Results

- Standard setting
  - Modified Angoff method
  - 12 Member Review Committee for Cut-off Score

- Passing rates
  - Part I Written Test: 94.4% - 97.0%
  - Part II Clinical Skill Test: 94.8% - 96.2%
  - Total: 91.7% - 93.8%
Some Issues

- **Legal problems**
  
  Legal appeals for the 1) validity of SP evaluation and 2) standard setting procedure from examinees who have failed to pass the test.

- **Test fairness**
  
  Clinical skill test is administered over the course of 51 days: information-sharing among examinees.

- **Coaching vs. training**
  
  Students are “coached” to be better test-takers; this may prevent them from receiving “training to be better doctors.”
The 2011 Controversy

Collusive test-taking

- 2011: students from multiple medical schools found to be operating a website to share OSCE/CPX testing information
- Coaching each other on what to expect on licensure exam, **despite confidentiality agreement**

- Clinical skill test over course of 51 days: risk of security breach
- Five **examiners** allegedly involved in this scam by providing coaching to candidate students
- Media reports resulted in public outcry and injured the image of the profession
- Students and faculty members were prosecuted by the police (Cyber Crime Investigations)
The 2011 Controversy

Post-examination analysis

• Initial outrage, but…
• No discernible difference in test scores between those who had used the website and those who had not: the effects of student collusion on OSCE is unclear
• Providing a limited amount of information to students has no effect
• OSCE is designed to assess the process
  • Most of the stations require an approach to a problem rather than an answer to a problem
• Early exam takers had higher average score
  • 2011 Passing rate 94.4% (3056/3236)

• Student dishonesty vs. future professional lapses
Impact on Clinical Education

- Pre-Clerkship Training
  - Providing basic PE & Communication skills

- Last 6 months of Clerkship
  - Detached from real clinical training
  - Protected time for preparing high stake OSCE
  - Irregularity of curriculum management in the last semester

- Pseudo-competency?
  - Students are good at the scenario of OSCE
  - No much change in hands on work experience
  - Still silent mode in clinical observation
Future directions

- **Logistics**
  - Increase the number of test centers
  - Administer the test in a single day

- **Test validity and reliability**
  - Increase in the number of the SP-based stations
  - Decrease in simple procedure stations

- **Assessing competences from training**
  - Clinical skill test after internship
  - Evaluate and improve efficacy of clinical training
  - Avoiding test taking skill education from “coaching”
Thank You

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