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
# Clinical Skill Test Structure

<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 of 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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