

[S19.004] Assessment of Medical Student Clinical Competencies in the Neurology Clinic

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OBJECTIVE: To develop a tool to assess medical student clinical competencies in the outpatient setting. **BACKGROUND:** Although there is consensus of the clinical competencies medical students should acquire during their neurology clinical clerkship, objective evaluation of these skills has been difficult. **DESIGN/METHODS:** Neurology clinical clerkship students completed a form immediately after finishing a new patient clinic encounter. They filled out their assessment of the anatomic location of the problem, key diagnosis, relative degree of diagnostic certainty, proposed diagnostic tests, and recommendations for treatment and management. After reviewing the form and hearing the student oral presentation, the attending and student returned to patient's room where the attending independently examined the patient, made the final patient recommendations, and completed, on the same form, the identical questions for comparison. **RESULTS:** Over 30 months, 87 consecutive students on the neurology clerkship completed 416 scoreable forms. Relative to faculty answers, students anatomically localized the lesion identically in 50%, close in 22%, distant in 22% and left blank in 5%; made the diagnosis identically in 53%, close in 23%, very different in 20% and left blank in 4%; proposed diagnostic tests identically in 32%, different in 47% and left blank in 22%; and proposed treatments identically in 29%, close in 26%, distant in 12%, and left blank in 33%. **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** We found students and faculty agreed significantly more often in anatomic lesion location and diagnosis than in ordering diagnostic tests or planning optimal treatment. This form improved student clinical competency assessment and enhanced teaching in clinics.

Category - Neurologic Education

SubCategory - Other