

[S18.001] The Script Concordance Test: A New Tool for Assessing Clinical Judgment in Neurology

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OBJECTIVE: To develop and validate a Neurology Script Concordance Test (NSCT). **BACKGROUND:** Clinical judgment, the ability to make appropriate decisions under conditions of uncertainty, is central to neurological practice, but objective measures of clinical judgment in neurology trainees are lacking. The Script Concordance Test (SCT), based on script theory from cognitive psychology, uses authentic clinical scenarios to compare a trainee's judgment skills with those of an expert panel. The SCT has been validated as an instrument for assessing clinical judgment in several medical disciplines, but has not been investigated in neurology. **DESIGN/METHODS:** An Internet-based NSCT comprising 26 clinical scenarios with 3-4 questions each (94 items total) was constructed. The scenarios were designed to reflect the uncertainty of real-life clinical encounters in adult neurology. The questions explored aspects of the scenario in which several responses might be acceptable; trainees were asked to judge which response they considered to be best. Forty-one PGY1-PGY5 residents and 7 neurology clerkship students from 2 North American neurology programs completed the SCT. The responses of trainees to each question were compared with the aggregate responses of an expert panel of 17 attending neurologists. **RESULTS:** The NSCT demonstrated excellent reliability (Cronbach alpha = 0.85). Neurology residents scored higher than medical students and lower than attending neurologists, supporting the NSCT's construct validity. Furthermore, NSCT scores appeared to discriminate senior residents (PGY3-5) from junior residents (PGY1-2), although more subjects are needed to ensure a robust statistical result. **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** Our NSCT is a practical and reliable instrument, and its performance to date supports its construct validity for assessing judgment in neurology trainees. The NSCT has potentially widespread applications as an evaluation tool, both in neurology training and for licensing examinations. Supported by: American Academy of Neurology Education Research Grant.