

## [P01.026] USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Scores Correlate with Neurology RITE Scores

*Walter S. Metzger, Athena K. Ozment, Mohammad H. Alsharabati, James W. Schmidley, Little Rock, AR*

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine how performance on Steps 1 and 2 of the USMLE correlate with performance of neurology residents on the RITE. **BACKGROUND:** Performance by neurology residents on the RITE has previously been demonstrated to correlate with performance on Part 1 of the ABPN examination. Recently, Step 2, but not Step 1, USMLE scores were reported to correlate with performance on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination. We investigated whether performance on Steps 1 and 2 of the USMLE correlate with performance of neurology residents on the RITE. **DESIGN/METHODS:** Retrospective review. Subjects included residents in our neurology residency program completing residency training between 1998 and 2009. For residents with available scores, Pearson product moment correlation coefficients were calculated for scores on Steps 1 & 2 of the USMLE, overall percentile scores for PGY2 & PGY3, PGY3 & PGY4, PGY2 & PGY4, and for Steps 1 & 2 of the USMLE and each PGY overall RITE percentile score. **RESULTS:** Among residents accepted into our program, there was a strong correlation between USMLE Step 1 (n = 33; mean = 213; SD = 22) and step 2 (n = 31; mean = 212; SD = 21) scores (r = + 0.76). Performance on the RITE by PGY2 residents correlated highly with USMLE Step 1 (r = +0.69) and Step 2 (r = +0.65) scores. RITE scores correlated highly across years of training: PGY2 & PGY3, r = +0.69; PGY3 & PGY4, r = +0.75; PGY2 & PGY4, r = +0.68. **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** When there is a strong correlation between USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 scores, these scores are predictive of performance on the RITE by PGY2 neurology residents. Performance on the RITE by PGY2 neurology residents correlates highly with performance on the RITE by PGY3 and PGY4 neurology residents. USMLE scores are objective measures that can be considered reliable in predicting RITE performance by neurology residents.