Workshop on Pedagogy and Integrated Medical and Dental Curriculum:

Clinical Examinations, Short, Long cases, OSCE, PACES

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Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lecture, you should be able to describe the:

- types of examinations used in assessing clinical skills
- differences between the examination types.
Key Issues in Clinical Examination

• Ensure validity by selecting the appropriate formats.

• Ensure reliability by sampling Students’ performance.

• Map clinical skills directly back to the curriculum and learning.
Key Issues in Clinical Examination

- Ensure that the method includes a wide range of contexts.

- Ensure feasibility of the method and that hospital services are not disrupted.

- Ensure Cost efficiency.
Methods of Clinical Examination - Long case

- Traditional long case examinations are case-specific, unstructured and depended on luck.

- Does not measure students' proficiency

- Reliability and validity questionable.
Current Methods of clinical Examination

- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Objective Structured Long Case Examination Record (OSLER)
- Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES). PACES is a modified OSCE.
OSCE

- Candidates rotate sequentially around a series of structured cases.

- Conducted in less time than the traditional method.

- Reflects students' level of clinical performance more accurately.
Elements of OSCE Design

• Blueprinting:
• Station development & piloting:
• Examiner training:
• Simulated patient training:
• Organization:
Practical Considerations in Planning for an OSCE -
Prior to the OSCE

- Suitable venue:
- Recruit examiners:
- Recruit simulators
- Run order of stations:
Practical Considerations in Planning for an OSCE -
Prior to the OSCE

- Using stations of different lengths:
- List all the equipment required by each station
- Go through the circuit the day before the OSCE.
- Produce & process mark sheets
Practical Considerations in Planning for an OSCE – on OSCE day

• Signs:

• Timing:

• Helpers/marshals:

• Briefing:
Practical Considerations after the OSCE

• Collect & meticulously organize mark sheets.

• Care of patients/simulated patients:

• Thank-you letters:
Criticisms of OSCEs

• Tendency to reduce clinical scenarios.

• Lack of assessment of student’s ability to integrate clinical, communication and consulting skills.

• Expensive, administratively complex and time consuming to design and set up.

• Feasibility is compromised by the number of students to be examined.
Clinical Examination in Surgery in Nigeria

- The factors mitigating against the use of the newer methods probably include inadequate knowledge, poor material & human resources and negative attitude of some examiners to changing methods of assessment.
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