

## **32 - Creation and Implementation of a General Surgery Mock Oral Boards Curriculum**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The general surgery certifying exam has a pass rate of 88%. Often, residents can feel overwhelmed when practicing for their certifying exam. To better serve our general surgery residents, we surveyed them to assess their perceived preparedness and created a curriculum to aid in test preparation.

### **METHODS:**

We assessed resident preparedness using a Likert scale (1-10) via anonymous survey collected after an initial practice session. A curriculum was created with recurring sessions involving residents of all levels, held monthly, and involving both observational and interactive components. Individual residents answered faculty-proctored, mock scenarios based on established ABS criteria. Scenarios were created and tailored to each of three levels of advancement (junior, midlevel, senior). Performance evaluations and feedback were provided in real-time.

### **RESULTS:**

32 residents across PGY1-5 responded to the initial survey. Self-perceived preparedness correlated directly with PGY year, with mean PGY1 preparedness score 1.25 (1-2.5), PGY2 2 (1-3.5), PGY3 3 (1-5), PGY4 3.5 (2-7), and PGY5 5(1-8). Overall, 78% felt they did not receive enough preparation for oral boards during residency thus far, and 97% said they would like additional opportunities for oral board practice. Anticipated number of sessions they would be able to attend varied but was not correlated with PGY year, and overall, 78% said they expected to be able to attend 7 or more sessions.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Our results support a need for additional structured certifying exam preparation. Mock oral boards practice sessions held in a recurring, standardized group format based on ABS subjects allows residents to learn both by active participation and observation. Adequacy of the current model in improving residents perceived preparedness will be gauged via survey after the completion of the 12 planned sessions.