

## Summary

### The Patient Assessment and Management Examination (PAME)

*Purpose:* The Patient Assessment and Management Examination (PAME) was developed to assess the clinical competence of surgery residents.<sup>1</sup>

*Method:* Eighteen senior residents participated in a six-station PAME that used standardized patients (SPs). Unlike typical OSCE stations, PAME stations were longer (30 minutes each) and designed to simulate a more comprehensive approach to patient encounters. The six cases addressed rectal bleeding, dysphagia and reflux, abdominal pain and liver mass, multiple trauma, mammographic abnormality, and Crohn's disease. Station components and the methods used to obtain data at each station are in the table below. Except for the Patient Satisfaction Form which was completed by the SP, surgery faculty completed all rating forms.

Station Component	Method of Data Collection
1. Conduct initial patient assessment: Referral letters and test results were supplied and the resident was expected to complete a history and physical examination, and obtain informed consent if needed.	Case-specific checklist (number of items depended on case, each item rated as a "yes" or "no") Global rating form (five items: history, physical, knowledge, communication skills, overall on this station, each rated on a five-point scale)
2. Order and interpret tests	Global rating form (two items: use of resources and interpretation, each rated on a five-point scale)
3. Conduct a second encounter with patient: The resident was expected to discuss diagnosis and develop a management plan.	Case-specific checklist (number of items depended on case, each item rated as a "yes" or "no") ABIM Patient Satisfaction Scale (modified) Global rating form (four items: management plan, knowledge, communication skills, overall, each rated on a five-point scale)
4. Respond to an oral examination pertaining to the case	Global rating form (three items: knowledge, judgment, overall, each rated on a five-point scale)

The construct validity of the PAME was ascertained by comparing the results of fourth- and final-year residents. Concurrent validity was examined by comparing results with resident performance on in-training evaluation reports, a national multiple choice examination, and an oral examination. Cronbach's alpha and the Pearson correlation were used to determine inter-item and interstation reliabilities, respectively.

1. MacRae HM, Cohen R, Regehr G, Reznick R, Burstein M. A new assessment tool: the patient assessment and management examination. *Surg* 1997;122:335-44.