

## A COMPARISON OF PHYSICIAN EXAMINERS AND TRAINED NURSE ANESTHETIST ASSESSORS IN ANESTHESIA OSCE SETTING

Chatchai Prechawai, Mayuree Vasinanukorn, Sasikaan Nimmanrat, Tippawan Jantapan

Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Haad-Yai, Songkhla, Thailand

**Background:** An objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) is a modern type of examination often used in medicine to evaluate medical students' skills. The learner's performance is observed and scored according to a checklist of response or behavioral items. However, due to higher clinical demands or physician's time, it is difficult to recruit physicians as examiners. Taking nonphysicians to act as examiners was considered as an attractive alternative. There is concern that nurse anesthetists have insufficient training to provide valid evaluation of medical student competence.

**Objective:** To assess competency of trained nurse anesthetists as reliable examiners for an OSCE by comparing with results obtained by physician examiners.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study of 5th year medical students undergoing OSCE during the anesthesiology training in preoperative to postoperative care program rotation. Trained nurse anesthetist assessors simultaneously evaluated medical performance with physician examiners. The examination stations were intubation, spinal block, ventilator setting and patient education. Statistical analyses used were 2-sample t-test, and Pearson's correlation coefficient.

### Results:

Forty three students participated in this study. There were no significant differences regarding mean scores between physician examiners and trained nurse anesthetist assessors. The correlation between examiner scores range from 0.78 to 0.97 indicating a relatively high level of agreement between examiners for each station. The high correlation and similar mean scores between pairs of examiners suggested that there were few differences between trained nurse anesthetist assessors and physician examiners.

### Conclusion:

This study demonstrated that trained nurse anesthetist assessors could be a valid alternative to physician examiners for scoring checklists in anesthesia OSCE setting.