

A Multistation Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship Objective Structured Clinical Examination

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Objective

To design a tool for student evaluation that assesses medical knowledge, communication skills and procedural skills during the Obstetrics and Gynecology clerkship at Yale Medical School

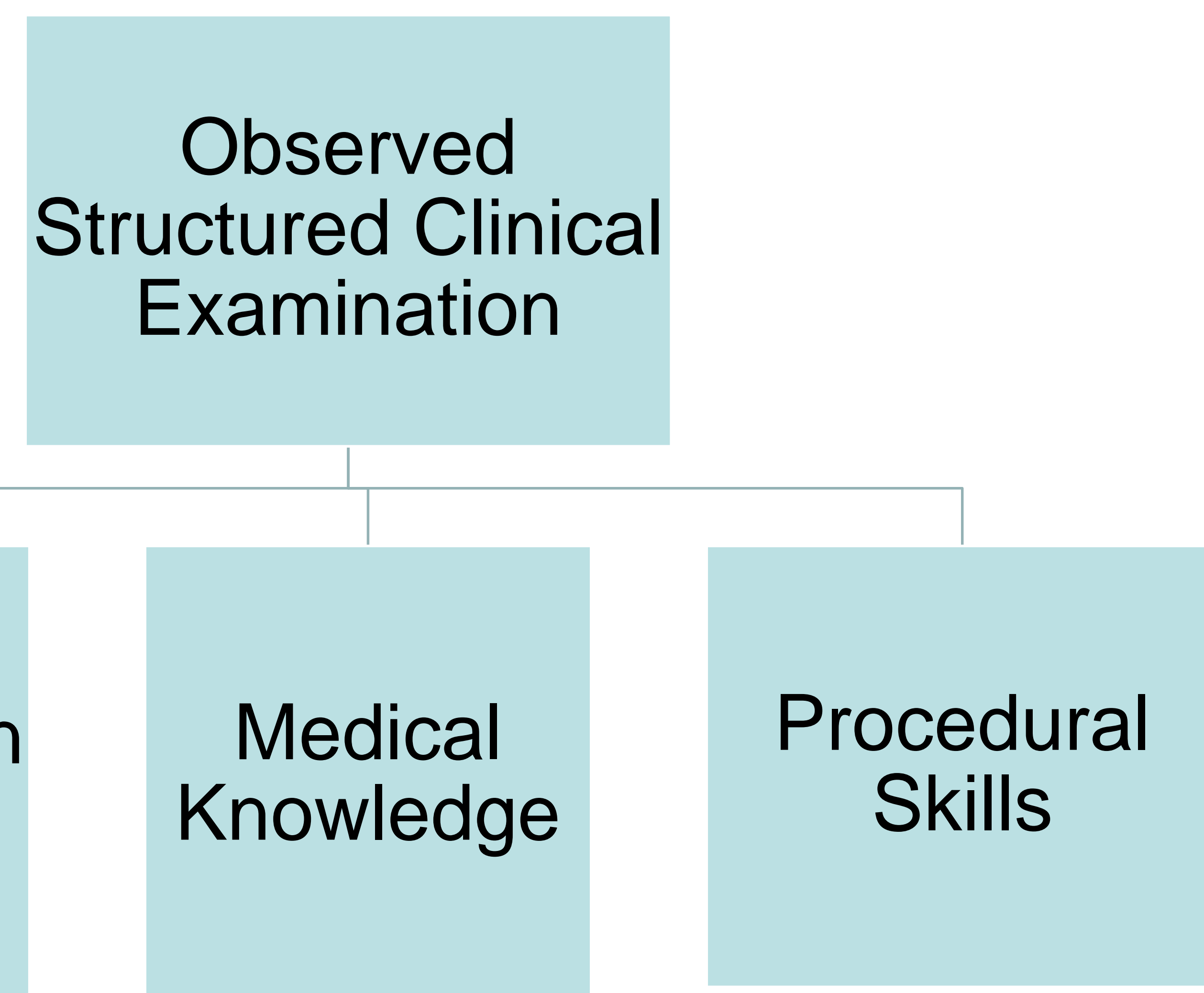
Introduction

The Observed Structured Clinical Examination is an exercise in which students are evaluated on areas in medical knowledge, clinical and communication skills. A recent LCME survey demonstrated that 97 medical schools use the Observed Structured Clinical Examination as a form of assessment, with 48 obstetrics and gynecology clerkships using this tool.

The Objective Structured Clinical Exam can be used either for formative or summative evaluation and may include clinical case vignettes, identification or procedural skills. The clinical case station in the OSCE is designed to showcase the learner's thought process and communication skills in the evaluation and management of a clinical situation either by simulation or standardized patients. The use of a standard written case scenario, structured evaluation checklist and the recording of the simulation are the basis for evaluator inter-rater reliability. The technical skills stations include a variety of identification and procedural tasks. Challenges to implementation of a multistation Observed Structured Clinical Examination have included faculty involvement as standard Observed Structured Clinical Examination sessions require a minimum of 1 faculty member per station for 6-8 hours for every 6 week clerkship block and limited space to conduct the activity.

Curricular Design

The Observed Structured Clinical Examination will include stations which engage the student on topics both in obstetrics and gynecology. The clinical case stations will involve either the use of either standardized patient vignettes or simulation lab scenarios lead by faculty members. Simulation lab scenarios will require a minimum of 2 faculty, preferably 3 to execute. These sessions will be evaluated by a standard checklist and videotaped, which will be available for students to review. Faculty will be required to undergo a training session to improve standardization. The identification and technical skills stations will be self-guided stations, requiring minimal faculty involvement



Sample Stations

Evaluation and assessment of a patient with pre-eclampsia	Performance of a normal vaginal delivery	Identification and classification of steps of a Cesarean Section
Interpretation of a fetal heart tracing	Performance of a breast exam and identification of follow up	Identification and classification of steps of aseptic technique in gynecological surgery
Laceration repair	Identification and classifications to the postoperative assessment	Microscopic identification and treatment of pathology
Performance of a pelvic exam	Collection of PAP smear and genital cultures	Selection of appropriate contraception methods

Assessment

Students will be assessed by faculty on the clinical case vignettes by a standard checklist. Responses from the other Observed Structured Clinical Examination stations will be collected and reviewed by the clerkship directors at the completion of the exercise. A debriefing session following the completion of the Observed Structured Clinical Examination will be held for each student individually to receive feedback about their performance by the clerkship directors as part of an exit interview process. Students with questions about their performance will be encouraged to view the taped simulation for self reflection and assessment. The Observed Structured Clinical Examination will be part of the summative assessment provided for students completing their obstetrics and gynecology clerkship. Students will be notified during the clerkship orientation of the Observed Structured Clinical Examination format, topics of interest and assessment goals.

Course assessment will occur via collection of student and faculty feedback by online survey collection. Use of focus groups yearly will aid with station selection and development.

Areas of Future Growth

With the anticipated combined Women's and Children Clerkship starting in June 2015, we aim to provide our students with a combined Objective Structured Clinical Exam with the Pediatrics Department. This combined activity will serve to provide objective information both for the students and faculty. We hope to include the use of the simulation center and live standardized patients to many core skills stations to obtain a clear sense of the student's abilities.

Acknowledgement

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