Experiences in OSCE: at the University of Innsbruck

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Currently, Innsbruck Medical University has implemented one OSCE at the end of year two, positioned in the curriculum as an entrance exam for the obligatory clerkships to ensure the mastery of basic medical skills. The OSCE content is based on Level 1 of the Austrian Catalogue of Practical Medical Learning Objectives and comprises history taking, physical exam and basic medical skills such as surgical wound dressing, venipunction or hygienic OT preparation. The clerkship-OSCE in 2013 encompassed three 10-minute stations for each of 320 students (3 out of 5 possible stations were assigned ad hoc).

Conclusions drawn after the clerkship-OSCE were that

(i) inter-rater variability for specific stations was acceptable, although need for rater-training for particular stations exists
(ii) students prepared sufficiently well (still 12% had to retake the OSCE once)
(iii) scoring using E-checklists worked efficiently
(iv) resource allocation (space, time, material) continues to be the most critical factor on the long run