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Correlation of Measures of Psychotherapy Competency in Psychiatry Residents

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INTRODUCTION: The ACGME Residency Review Committee in Psychiatry has stipulated that general psychiatry trainees develop “competency in applying supportive, psychodynamic, and cognitive-behavioral psychotherapies to both brief and long-term individual practice” [1]. Residency programs are required to demonstrate and faculty are required to verify that trainees have attained the required competencies. Yet no generally accepted reliable and valid measure of psychotherapy competency has yet been developed.

Several measures are widely used to assess resident competence in psychotherapy [2-7].

Evaluation by individual psychotherapy supervisors [3,4]
Rating of resident’s conduct of psychotherapy in live, recorded, or transcribed performance
Training portfolios
Performance on a multiple choice examination such as the Psychiatry Resident in Training Examination (PRITE) – Glob-1

Psychiatry Resident in Training Examination (PRITE) – Global Psychiatry scores changed significantly from PGY-1 to PGY-2, but increased significantly in PGY-3 & PGY-4.

Correlation of Measures of Psychotherapy Competency

Table 2: Correlations Among Measures of Competence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Pearson correlation coefficient, two-tailed, paired analysis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRITE psychosocial subscore</td>
<td>r = 0.34, p &lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPCT</td>
<td>r = 0.28, p &lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual resident’s scores on CPPCT</td>
<td>r = 0.30, p &lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual resident’s scores on COSE</td>
<td>r = 0.32, p &lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY-2 supervisor rating with PGY-2 COSE score</td>
<td>r = 0.27, p &lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

Resident self-assessment does not appear to reflect competence as assessed by supervisors, or knowledge as assessed by objective tests.

Global supervisor evaluations do not appear to reliably measure competence.

Standardized supervisor assessment instruments are needed.

Further work is needed to develop reliable, valid measures of competency.

REFERENCES

1. ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Psychiatry (Effective: July 1, 2007)