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# Is it possible to assess histopathology in an OSCE station in undergraduate medicine?

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Histopathology encompasses disease pathophysiology, gross pathology, microscopy and prognosis. How best to assess histopathology in a modern curriculum can be a challenge (1,2).

Our objective was to assess year three undergraduate medical students' understanding of histopathology using an OSCE station.

We developed a year 3 OSCE station based on a cancer resection histopathology report. The student was tasked with explaining the report to the simulated patient and addressing any questions from the simulated patient. The cut score was calculated using the borderline regression method.

## Student Instructions

### Dermatology Station

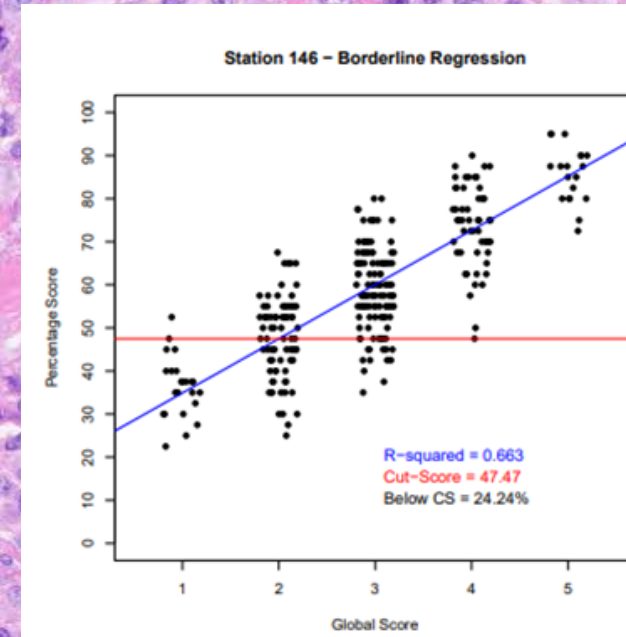
Year 3

#### Background information to station:

You are a foundation doctor working in dermatology. This patient had a skin cancer excised five days ago. The patient has already been informed that they have probable skin cancer. They are attending for their histopathology results.

#### Specific student instructions:

1. Explain the histopathology report to the patient
2. Address the patient's concerns
3. Advise the patient on any further treatment, investigations, follow up.
4. Do not examine the patient



297 students  
Cut score: 18.99 out of 40  
225 students (75.8%) passed  
72 students (24.2%) failed  
Standard deviation: 6.26  
R-squared value: 0.66

Histopathology can be successfully incorporated into an OSCE station in a reliable, valid and meaningful way. Clinicians do not need to be able to interpret histopathology images but they do need to be able to understand histopathology reports. The histopathology of many disease processes could be assessed in this way including inflammation, screening program pathology and invasive cancer.

#### References

1. Designing assessment of pathology in the undergraduate curriculum. McMahon RF, Benbow EW. Diagn Histopathol. 2008;14:453-8.
2. Relooking the curriculum and assessment in undergraduate pathology. Khonglah Y, Raphael V, Mishra J, Marbaniang E, Chowdhury Z, Dey B.J Educ Health Promot. 2019 Jun 27;8:116.