Peer Assessment of Veterinary OSCEs

Lissann Wolfe, PGDip, FHEA, BA, RVN
Why Use Peer Assessors?

- 4 Summative OSCES
- 14 days
- Over 100 staff
- Staff Time + Cost!
- Impact on clinics

- 3 Formative OSCEs
Method

• 3 OSCEs, 3 stations
• 51 Peer Assessors (4th Year)
• 354 Undergraduates (1st, 2nd, 3rd Year)
Peer Assessor Training

- Clinical Skill
- How to assess
- How to give feedback
- Role Play
Results

Veterinary Medicine
It’s All Fun And Games
Until The Anal Glands Explode!
Students: Post Formative Exam

Were the peer assessors were sufficiently knowledgeable in the clinical skill they were assessing?

Overall, how would you rate the peer assessors’ ability to provide constructive and appropriate feedback?
If you received a fail on any of the stations, did the peer assessor clearly explain why?

- Yes: 137
- No: 9
- Some: 2
- N/A: 206

Did the peer assessors provide useful advice on how to improve your performance?

- Yes: 330
- No: 1
- Some: 21
- No Resp.: 2
Post Summative Exam

The feedback was helpful in preparing for the summative assessment.

Did you act on feedback given in the formative OSCE in preparation for your summative OSCE?

- >95% acted on feedback given by PAs
Peer Assessors
Post Formative Exam

I was comfortable giving feedback to the students.

I found it difficult to provide negative feedback.
I would rather they realised their mistakes and improved than just say they all did great

Negative feedback helps them improve

I felt the negatives would benefit them more for the real OSCE

I felt ok being negative, it was for their benefit

I don't want them to make the same mistakes twice

It was quite hard to criticise, didn't want to demoralise

It was difficult to be mean and critical

Most accepted it well but one person looked upset which was harder

If the student did really bad I found it hard
I feel more confident now give me more confidence in the OSCE situation

More comfortable with the mark schemes and generally feel better about the whole process, more relaxed

Feel more comfortable with OSCEs generally

I won't stress as much

It's nice to be on the other side as it's taken some of the stress out of the OSCEs

Know the mark scheme and what not to do

You get to see that everyone makes the same mistakes so not to panic

I feel calmer and much more aware of common mistakes to avoid

I understand the exam better

I know a little better what assessors may be looking for

Know exactly what to expect from OSCE

Learn how. Do it. Teach it.
Post Summative Exam

Did acting as a Peer Assessor help to prepare for your summative OSCE? Please explain your answer.

- Yes: 81.1%
- No: 18.9%
Increased confidence

I feel it gave me a better understanding of how the stations were marked, so I felt more confident in my own OSCE exam.

I found I was a lot more confident in the majority of stations. I felt that as second years were able to be confident why couldn't I be.

It allowed me to be confident in my abilities whilst practicing for the practical OSCEs.

During the summative I felt that I was generally more relaxed and made fewer stupid mistakes because I understood how the assessors mark stations.

I felt more confident because I understood how the mark schemes work.

Common Errors

Watching other students' mistakes made me realize what NOT to do.

It helped me realize what mistakes I should avoid, having seen the younger students make them.

I felt like a pro at gloving and gowning! Especially after seeing all the students make different mistakes... it made me extra aware of what not to do and what problems could arise.

I learned all the mistakes that people often make on it while assessing them.

When you see how the students perform, you can actually pick up common mistakes and explaining to them is like another revision session for myself.
Empathy with Assessors

I felt much more calm after assessing the OSCEs, the summative OSCE felt more manageable and I finally understood that the assessors are not criticizing or judging as they mark you. I felt more at ease knowing the assessors and how the mark scheme is awarded and that points can still be awarded even if it's not perfect.

Being on the grading side made you aware of how the assessors feel while grading. It made the process a little less intimidating, however there is still the fear of the unknown.

It gave me an insight to what it is like on the other side,
Conclusions

- Students highly rate PAs feedback ability
- Fairly assessed
- Provided helpful advice
- Increased confidence for PAs
- Clearer understanding of OSCE process

Personally, the best way I learn is by teaching. The OSCE peer assessing is fantastic in my opinion.
Questions?

"I want to be a horse vet!"

Childhood

Reality