CERTIFICATION'S IMPACT ON PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE: RESEARCH BY FOUR SCHOLARS

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Project Questions

- Three questions
  - Neurosurgeons’ Perceptions of MOC
  - Recognized Focused Practice: Value? Press Ahead? With Caveats?
  - Aging Surgeon
Methods

- Invitations
  - 2,435 Diplomates participating in MOC
  - 1,440 Diplomates certified prior to 1999 (grandfathered)
  - 1,024 Retired Diplomates
- 2,946 opened (60.2%)
- 1,387 unopened (28.4%)
- 191 bounced (3.9%)
- 1,627 clicked through (33.3%)
- 1,449 completed (30%)
- 367 opted out
- Invite then three reminders in two week intervals
- 30 question validated survey
RESULTS
DEMOGRAPHICS
Years since residency/fellowship completion

- 5 years or less: 4.88%
- 6-10 years: 21.60%
- 11-15 years: 27.31%
- 16-20 years: 26.06%
- 21-25 years: 15.99%
- 26-30 years: 4.05%
- >35 years: 0.10%
Type of Practice

- Private Practice: 42.07%
- Academic: 36.85%
- Military: 1.67%
- Veterans Affairs System: 0.94%
- Hybrid: 7.62%
- Employed by Hospital or...: 12.00%
- Retired: 0.63%
- Other: 5.22%
MOC VIEWS
Participation in MOC

- Yes: 83.04%
- No: 16.96%
“Physicians should be required to participate in continuing professional improvement following initial board certification.”
“The MOC process as currently structured provides me value as a practitioner.”
RECOGNIZED FOCUSED PRACTICE
Fellowship completion

- Yes, a two year fellowship: 11.01%
- Yes, a one year fellowship: 42.16%
- Yes, a fellowship...: 8.10%
- No, I have not completed a...: 38.73%
Was the fellowship formally recognized?

- Yes, by ACGME (Accreditation): 19.31%
- Yes, by CAST-SNS: 9.17%
- Yes, by other (please): 11.46%
- No: 60.07%
Would a Recognized Focused Practice designation within neurosurgery be of value to you?
“There should be an age-based cutoff for neurosurgical practice (including operating).”
At what age should neurosurgical practice cease?
For neurosurgeons 65 and older, MOC exams should reflect...
• Maintenance of Certification: Perceptions and Attitudes of Neurosurgeons (accepted by *Neurosurgery*)

• The Aging Neurosurgeon: When Is Enough, Enough? Attitudes Towards Ceasing Practice and Testing in Late Career (accepted by *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*)

• Recognized Focused Practice (in review)
Conclusions

• Neurosurgical Diplomates recognize the critical importance of testing throughout the continuum of one’s career
• MOC testing vehicles can be improved
• Recognized Focus Practice enjoys lukewarm support
• There is disagreement among neurosurgeons as to issues surrounding the Aging Neurosurgeon
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THANK YOU!

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