

Preliminary Impact of ABOG MOC Integration Pilot Program

Results from the 2016 MOC year six survey

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Background

Since 2008, diplomates of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) have been required to take a secure written exam in the sixth year of their MOC cycle. In late 2015, ABOG announced a pilot program, which began for diplomates who would be in their sixth MOC year in 2016. The pilot program integrates performance on MOC Part II Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment questions with the Part III Judgment, Knowledge and Skills by allowing diplomates to earn an exam exemption based on their Part II performance. Diplomates must meet the minimum threshold of 86% correct in MOC years 1-5 to be eligible for the exam exemption. Only the first response to article questions is used to calculate the pilot program eligibility average. Additionally, the diplomate must be in good standing with the board to be eligible for the exemption.

Methods

An incentivized, qualitative survey was sent to diplomates who completed their MOC year six in 2016, including both diplomates who were eligible for an exemption from the Part III exam and those who were not eligible for an exemption. The survey asked questions about each component of MOC and several questions were added to gather feedback regarding the pilot program. Statistical analysis was performed using Excel and SPSS.

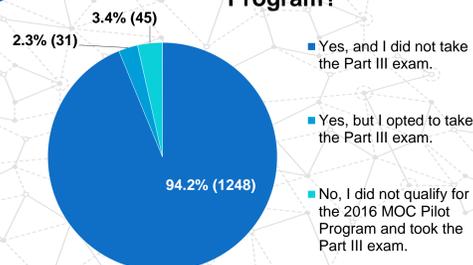
Survey Questions, 5-Level Likert Scale

- Taking a Part III exam aimed at assessing knowledge in a secure testing facility every 6 years facilitates positive change or continuous improvement in clinical practice.
- Reading a set number of articles and answering related questions aimed at enhancing lifelong learning each year facilitates positive change or continuous improvement in clinical practice.
- If ABOG fully adopts the pilot program, it will make MOC more valuable to clinical practice.
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Open-ended Questions

- If ABOG fully adopts the pilot program, it will make MOC more relevant to clinical practice.
- Please share any additional comments regarding how the MOC Pilot Program has affected your opinion towards MOC.

A Did you qualify for the 2016 MOC Pilot Program?



Results

Of the 1325 survey respondents, 94.2% earned a Part III exam exemption and opted to participate in the pilot program in 2016 (Figure A). Overall, the 2016 MOC survey yielded higher than usual response rates (Figure B), which allowed us to capture responses from 60.4% of the survey population.

Survey participants were presented with four questions to gauge their perception of the effects of the MOC Part III exam and MOC Part II articles on their clinical practice. The responses from pilot program participants are outlined in Figure C.

- 77.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that taking a Part III exam aimed at assessing knowledge in a secure testing facility every 6 years facilitates positive change or continuous improvement in clinical practice.
- Almost 95% of these respondents agreed or strongly agreed that reading a set number of articles and answering related questions aimed at enhancing lifelong learning each year facilitates positive change or continuous improvement in clinical practice.
- Respondents' reactions to the idea that adoption of the pilot program will improve the value and relevancy of the ABOG MOC program were overwhelmingly positive as well.

2016 MOC-Year 6 Diplomates	Respondents	Response Rate
2193	1324	60.4%

Sample of Open-Ended Question Responses

Please share how the MOC Pilot Program has positively affected your clinical practice.

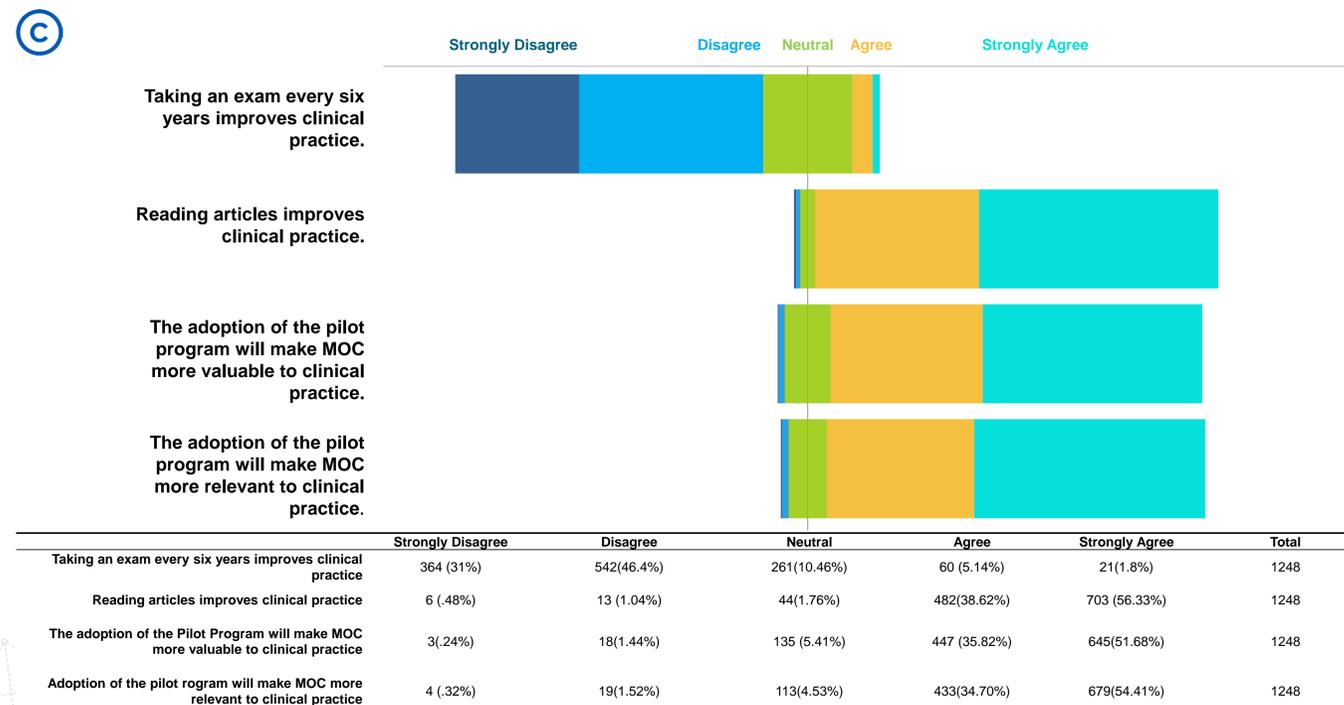
"I am able to continue using the current data from these relevant articles in my day-to-day practice, such as Zika management in pregnancy."

"Reading the articles and staying current on guidelines significantly helps my patients. In fact, after reading a CME article for last year on Amniotic Fluid Embolism, the following week, I had a patient with AFE. Thankful for reading the article, and it being fresh on my mind, and thankful that both she and the baby had a good outcome."

Please share any additional comments regarding how the MOC Pilot Program has affected your opinion towards MOC.

"The MOC Pilot Program made me feel that ABOG was trying to make my MOC experience more relevant to my daily practice."

"I have taken the articles more seriously. In fact, I presented one of the articles at our last department meeting which I had never done before."



Discussion

- **Diplomate reactions to and perceptions of the value of the MOC integration pilot program has been overwhelmingly positive.**
- **Diplomates prefer Part II articles to the secure written exam.** The overall response was that articles keep physicians updated on current practice guidelines, which helps them provide better patient care. Additionally, the pilot program encouraged some respondents to put more effort into answering MOC Part II questions; therefore, they took the articles more seriously than in previous years.
- **The pilot program makes MOC more relevant to clinical practice.** According survey respondents, reading MOC Part II articles is the fastest way to stay updated on emerging health care topics. While it takes years to create and field test questions for the secure MOC exam, the MOC Part II articles and questions are usually created in less than three months. This enables ABOG to share important publications quickly to 32,000+ diplomates who are participating in MOC.

Limitations

- The survey did not capture whether the diplomate finished their first or second MOC cycle in 2016, therefore, it is unclear what percentage of the respondents who earned an exam exemption have been required to take the Part III exam, which would limit their ability to judge how the MOC exam affects their clinical practice (Figure C, Question 1).
- Due to the nature of a qualitative survey, ABOG cannot infer causation for changes in practice.
- For their contributions to ABOG's continued quality improvement efforts, survey participants were also provided an MOC credit incentive for answering the entire MOC survey, which included questions regarding the pilot program.

Contact

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