Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs)
Increasing Awareness and Improving Dental Professionals’ Skills to Manage Cases of Domestic Violence

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Rationale

- Head, neck, and facial injuries are common physical signs of domestic violence
- Dental professionals are often asked to treat these injuries
What is an OSCE?

- **Objective**
- **Structured**
- **Clinical**
- **Exam**

- Students are assessed but not graded
- Feedback is formative not summative
- In our case, the ‘E’ is for Experience
Why a Standardized Patient OSCE?

- A Controlled Context
- The Reality Factor
- A Safe Environment
A Controlled Context

Students’ practice of communication and decision-making skills in a controlled environment fosters learning and allows assessment of the educational process.
The Reality Factor

Using standardized patients in an OSCE format allows students to practice decision-making and communication skills in as realistic a context as possible.
A Safe Environment

- A simulated environment is a safe environment
- High stakes
- Low occurrence
- Miscommunications are opportunities for learning
Who are our standardized patients?

- Specially trained lay actors
- Trained to respond to the students within a range of prescribed behaviors
- Trained to give feedback to the students
- Most have been involved in many different scenarios in healthcare
The Case

Andrea Bennet
The Patient Presents ...

- Chief Complaint:
  
  "I fractured two front teeth"

- Other injuries:
  
  Aging bruise to left eye
  History of jaw trauma (rollerblading fall)

- Patient Affect:
  
  Quiet
  Doesn’t make eye contact often
  Agitated
The Encounter 1
The Encounter 2
The Patient’s Feedback
We have the encounter to get to the debriefing

This is where it gets interesting and everyone learns
Group Debriefings

- Adjectives
- Changes
- Positives
- Take-home points
Adjectives

- Awkward
- Uncomfortable
- Interesting
- Fun
- Helpful
- Surprising
- Good
- Difficult
- Scary
- Realistic
Positives

- Trying to get the patient to talk
- Draw from non-verbal cues
- Good to experience outside an actual patient
- Good actors – realistic
- Listening to the patient
- Like real life
- Felt real after initial awkwardness
Changes

- More time for feedback
- Instruments and gloves
- Give the observer case information
Take-home points

- Compromising situations happen
- Listening is important
- Ensure confidentiality
- Have a system to think about referral
- Concern for the patient/empathy
Student Comments

What did you learn from your OSCE experience today?

- “That when put in an unexpected situation I can handle myself reasonably”
- “How to approach difficult and sometimes uncomfortable situations”
It does not stop here.

Hindsight is 20/20 …

- Self-reflection takes time
- Debriefing with good judgment
- One-on-one feedback with distance is an important part of the learning process

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Questions?

Thank you!

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