**Title: The Next Step – Replacing Step 1 as a Metric for Residency Application**

**Authors: Garrett A. Berk, BS; Taylor J. Stack-Pyle, BS; Tiffany D. Ho, BS; Abdullah Zeatoun, MD; Keonho Albert Kong, MD; Mark B. Chaskes, MD, MBA; Brent A. Senior, MD; Brian D. Thorp, MD; Charles S. Ebert, Jr., MD, MPH; Adam J. Kimple, MD, PhD**

**Introduction:**Beginning in 2022, USMLE Step 1 scores will be reported as Pass/Fail. Historically, numeric Step 1 scores have been an important component of residency applications, representing one of the few metrics standardized across all applicants. As such, they have frequently been used by programs as a cutoff to screen candidates for interview invitations. With this dramatic change, residency programs will require alternative ways to screen and select candidates. **Methods:**Otolaryngology applications to an academic medical center for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 ERAS cycles were reviewed. Board scores and quantitative research data (including number of journal articles/abstracts, book chapters, poster/oral presentations, and online publications) were extracted. Correlation coefficients were determined comparing applicant Step 1 scores to their corresponding Step 2 scores and quantity of research. **Results:**Step 2 scores (R = 0.67, p < 2.2e-16) represented the only variable with a correlation coefficient of R > |0.1|. This remained true when segmenting groups of applicants with Step 1 scores below 220, above 250, and between 220-250. **Conclusion:**Step 1 scores were moderately correlated with Step 2 scores, but not with any other variable. This poses a challenge for residency programs in their evaluation of applicants, as Step 2 scores are not currently required at the time of application and therefore not able to screen every applicant. Additionally, screening based on Step 2 scores will select a different cohort than screening based on Step 1 scores. In future match cycles, residency programs will need to identify new methods to screen candidates.

Chart, scatter chart

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