Background
Examiners are provided with feedback on their performance with regard to the MRCPCH Clinical Exam. This analysis provides:

- Mean and standard deviation data on the marks they awarded & comparison with other examiners.
- Data on their examining style (a ‘Hawk/Dove Index’ (HDI)).
- Data on their ability to rank candidates’ performance and discriminate between well and poorly performing candidates.

We report data obtained via a questionnaire given to all June 2008 examiners, which asked for their views on PERFORCE.

Results
Data from 64 experienced examiners (80% response rate) showed:

- Most examiners agree that the PERFORCE data is both easy to understand and useful.
- Qualitatively examiners noted they found the discriminative ability data (n=22) and HDI data (n=20) most useful.
- 50% of examiners felt they would not change their examining style as a result of the feedback.
- Many examiners felt that the feedback could be enhanced by including graphs.
- 95% of examiners agreed that PERFORCE was a good way of assessing their performance as examiners.

Conclusions
PERFORCE feedback is deemed as a useful tool by almost all examiners, with the majority agreeing the data was easy to understand and helpful, and an appropriate tool for assessing their performance.

Take-home messages
PERFORCE is a novel way of monitoring the performance of examiners. It’s benefits will increase over time, as examiners and the College will be able to identify patterns in the marking which can then be worked on through examiner training.

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