

**Relationships Between Academic Performance by Medical Students
and COMLEX-USA Level 2: A Multisite Analysis**

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ABSTRACT

Purpose. COMLEX-USA is the national medical licensing examination for physicians earning the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. Little has been published regarding validity of this relatively new, high-stakes examination. The purpose of this study was to examine the validity of Level 2 of the exam, which is given to fourth year medical students and focuses on clinically relevant content.

Method. Osteopathic medical schools were asked to submit Level 2 scores and associated academic information, including predictions by deans or deans' representatives regarding whether each student would pass the examination.

Results. Twelve of 17 eligible schools provided data for 1254 of 1577 (80%) first time test takers in March 2000. The overall mean score of study participants was 533.35, with a pass rate of 91.98%. The highest average correlation with COMLEX Level 2 performance was with COMLEX Level 1 scores ($r = 0.76$) followed by basic science GPA ($r=0.66$), total GPA as a fourth-year student ($r=0.65$), and clinical GPA ($r=0.36$). Students identified as highest risk received the lowest mean score (427.54) and were most likely to fail the exam.

Conclusions. COMLEX Level 2 scores are moderately to highly related to academic achievement in osteopathic medical schools.