

The Relationship between Performance on the IFOM Clinical Science Self-Assessment and the IFOM Clinical Science Examination

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Introduction

- Self-assessments allow students to evaluate their knowledge and gauge their readiness for higher stakes assessments.¹
- Self-assessments may enhance learning through the process of taking a test. Research on test-enhanced learning or the testing effect has found that material is remembered better if one or more tests are included as part of the learning strategy.²
- The web-based International Foundations of Medicine Clinical Science Self-Assessment (IFOM CS SA) is available for international medical students to assess their knowledge of the clinical sciences prior to taking the International Foundations of Medicine Clinical Science Examination (IFOM CSE).
- Both examinations are available in international English, Spanish and Portuguese and are built to the same content specifications.
- Self-assessment users are provided with a table that allows them to translate their score to an approximate IFOM CSE score.

Objective

- To investigate use patterns for the IFOM CS SA and to determine the strength of the relationship between performance on the IFOM CS SA and IFOM CSE for English and Spanish takers who took both exams.

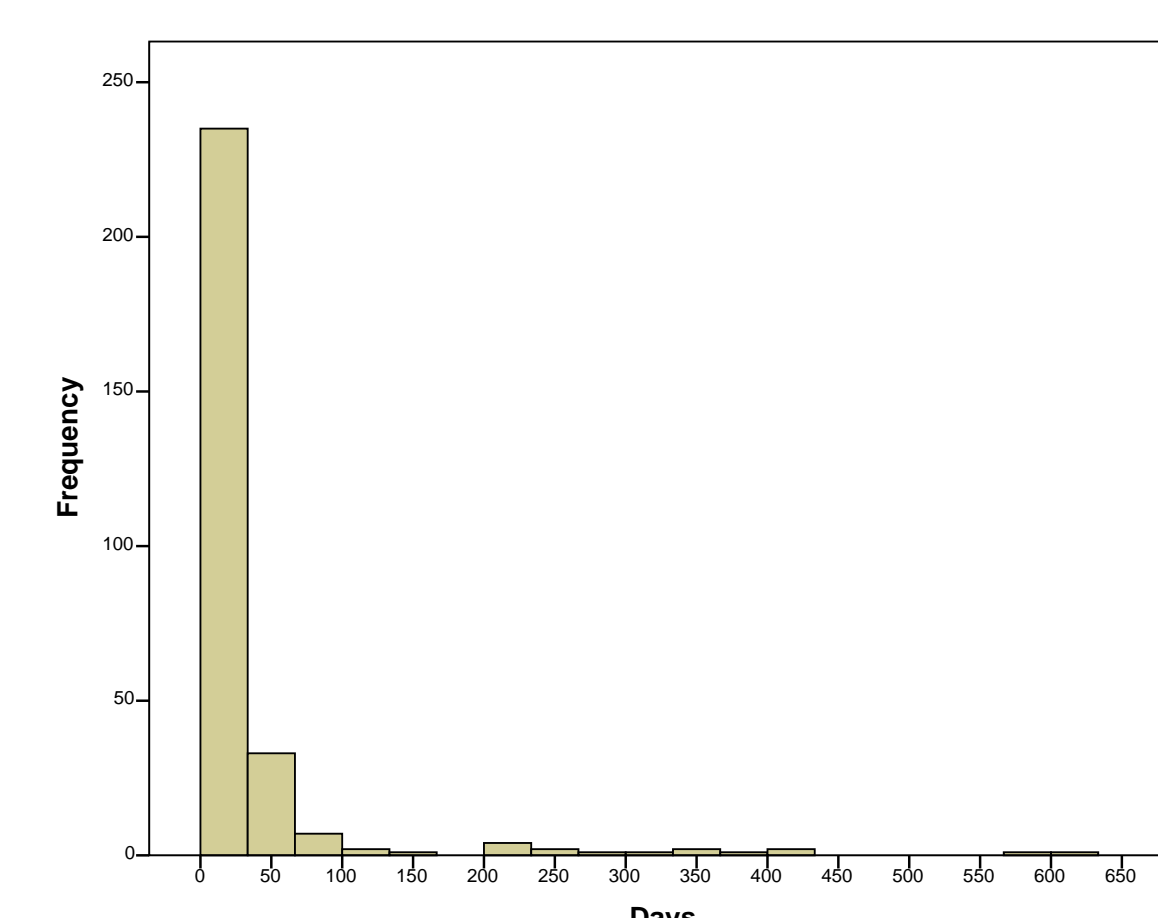
Methods

- Descriptive analyses were run to determine the median number of days between SA and CSE attempts.
- Linear regression analyses were run based on English takers (N=125) and Spanish takers (N=168) separately with first IFOM CS SA score as the predictor variable and first IFOM CSE score as the dependent variable.
- An additional linear regression analysis was run based on all examinees to test whether the regression models were the same for the English and Spanish groups.

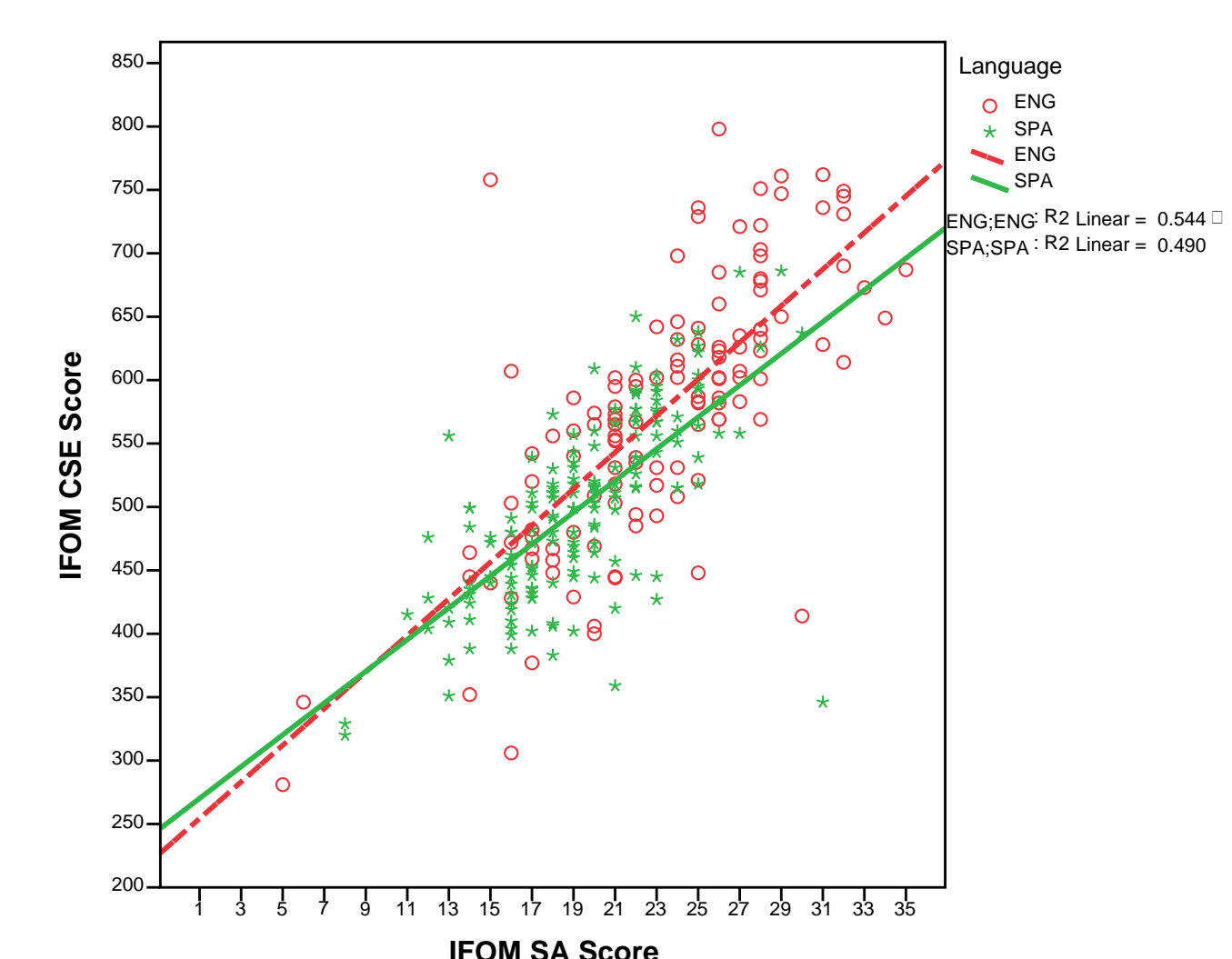
Results

- Students generally took the self-assessment within a few days of taking IFOM CSE (median = 4 days).
- IFOM CS SA scores explained 54% and 49% of the variance in IFOM CSE scores for the English and Spanish groups, respectively.
- The regression models were not the same for the two groups as indicated by significantly different slopes and intercepts ($p < .01$).

Number of Days between IFOM SA and CSE



Relationship between IFOM SA and CSE Scores Based on Language



Conclusions/

Take Home Message

- There is a moderate relationship between performance on IFOM CS SA and IFOM CSE.
- The IFOM CS SA provides students with a valuable learning tool to assess their clinical science knowledge and readiness to take the IFOM CSE.

References

1. Morrison C, Ross L, Sample L, Butler, A. Relationship between performance on the NBME Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-assessment and USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge for USMGs and IMGs. *Teaching and Learning in Medicine: An International Journal*. 2014; 26(4): 373-378.
2. Rohrer D, Taylor K, Sholar B. Tests enhance the transfer of learning. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. 2010; 36: 233-239.