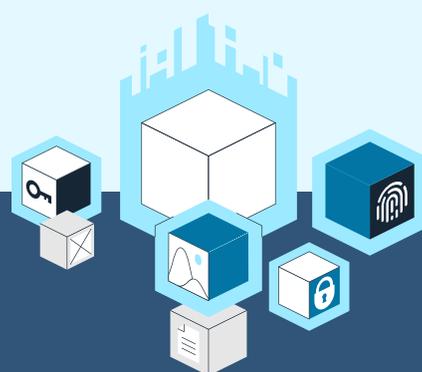


# Constructing a Validity Argument and Exploring Implications for American Board of Anesthesiology's Basic Examination

Authors: RS Carpenter Lide, R Moquin, E Green (U Arkansas)

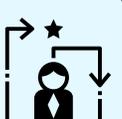
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## ABA Basic Exam

Anesthesiology is one of the few specialties that requires a high-stakes exam during residency. Exam validation efforts have focused on the test itself, rather than its potential to inform decisions.

## Study Design

-  Through semistructured interviews, former and current residency program leaders were interviewed to evaluate how ABA Basic Exam results are used within training programs.
-  Kane's framework was implemented to outline four inferential links necessary to transition from test administration to learner decision-making, especially as it pertains to residency dismissal.

## Kane's Argument Framework

-  **Exam Scoring**  
Translates test performance into scores
-  **Generalization**  
Reliability of test performance on the learner
-  **Extrapolation**  
Correlation of results to real world performance
-  **Implications**  
Consequences of decisions made based on assessment results

## Interview Analysis and Emerging Themes



### Programmatic Policies

High variability among residency programs related to dismissal



### Perceived Differences

Perception that the exam's purpose is to "weed out" residents



### Impact on Recruitment

Implication that the resident's test-taking ability will be challenged



### Test Preparation

Impact of residents supplanting reading with question banks



### Resident Implications

Recognition that the exam is a significant source of stress



### Implications of Failure

Psycho-emotional effects of failure and its influence on the future



### Equity Concerns

Unease in exam fairness juxtaposed with an individual's limitations

## Challenges & Limitations

-  This study is explanatory rather than confirmatory, and aims to inform future efforts
-  Correlation of exam performance with clinical skill remains undersupported
-  Basic Exam usage varied greatly among residency programs

## Where Do We Go From Here?

-  In January 2025, the ABA will remove most policy mandates to the Basic Exam, including those related to training extension and graduation
-  Increased responsibility on programs to ensure ample validity evidence supports their use of Basic Exam results