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<i>An introduction to the OSCE for readers unfamiliar with the concept and, for those already familiar with the OSCE, a more in-depth insight into the characteristics that define the OSCE as an assessment tool.</i>	
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<i>An account of how the OSCE was conceived and developed in the 1970s in response to the assessment challenges facing educators in the healthcare professions.</i>	
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<i>The OSCE with its multiple samples of performance has come to dominate performance assessment and merits a place in every assessor's toolkit.</i>	
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<i>The OSCE can be used to assess a range of learning outcomes, including communication skills, physical examination, practical procedures, problem solving, clinical reasoning, decision making, attitudes and ethics and other competencies or abilities.</i>	

SECTION B

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<i>The OSCE can be located in a range of settings. The selection of a venue will depend on the nature of the examination and the local circumstances.</i>	

8	The patient	91
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	The OSCE can be a powerful learning experience, and a variety of approaches can be adopted for the provision of feedback to the learner.	
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