

ABR | AMERICAN BOARD OF RADIOLOGY

Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA)

AAPM Meeting – San Antonio, TX

COI

- G. Donald Frey – Part time paid employee of the ABR
- Kalpana Kanal – No conflicts (volunteer Trustee of ABR)
- David Laszakovits – Full time employee of the ABR



Medical Physicist Certification

- Board certification exam after physician residency (Goes back to the 1930's)
 - AAPM recommended residencies for all MP's in 2008
 - Adopted by the ABR beginning in 2014
- Initially Lifetime Certificate for most boards
- Time limited certificates with recertification exams
 - ABFP 1970's
 - ABR
 - 1995 for subspecialties -- 2002 for all diplomates
 - Recent move to continuous certification
- What has prompted these changes?



Why do we have Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

- Having MOC is the right thing to do
- MOC is expected by the public in focus groups
 - Includes a requirement for knowledge evaluation
- MOC keeps the process in the hands of medical physicists
 - Lack of MOC would lead to a process by regulators, the federal government, insurance companies and/or JCAHO



What is the foundation of MOC?

- Part 1: Professionalism and Professional Standing
 - Valid license (TX, FL, NY, HI) or professional standing attestation
- Part 2: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
 - At least 75 hours CE (25 SA-CE) in the previous 3 years (CAMPEP, Cat 1, others)
- Part 3: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement & Skills
 - ABR OLA or an MOC Exam once every 5 years
 - The MP MOC exam is the MP Certifying exam
- Part 4: Improvement in Medical Physics Practice
 - Practice Quality Improvement, (PQI) or participatory activities



ABR MOC Improvements for Physicists

- Simplifying attestation
- Expanding the Part 4 (Quality Improvement) possibilities
- Expanding the types of CE that are acceptable
 - And for physicists – SDEP
- And now **Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA)**





Replacing the Decennial Exam with the On-line Longitudinal Assessment (OLA)

How Will ABR OLA Be Better For Me?

- It eliminates the 10-year MOC exam
- OLA eliminates the need to go to a Pearson VUE center
- It does not require you to set aside time to study
- It offers immediate feedback with rationale and references
- Incorrect answers are followed-up with similar question in a few weeks
- It is more focused and relevant to your clinical practice
- It is designed to be an ongoing, learning and non-stressful experience
- It is flexible – Within broad guidelines you decide how often to engage with OLA



Introduction to longitudinal assessments

- Adoption by ABMS member boards
 - Initially tested by American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) in 2014
 - Full launch to all ABA diplomates in 2016
 - Many other ABMS Boards pursuing similar model



ABR Online Longitudinal Assessment

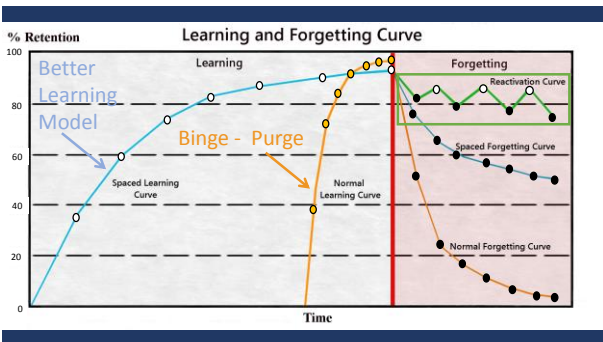
- ABR's implementation is called ABR OLA
- New ABR volunteers (both academic and community) have been recruited to work on creating content (questions)



We Know That...

- We forget stuff
- We fail to learn all the new things that we should
- We focus our CE in areas we like and thus in areas we are expert in





Summative vs Formative Assessment

- Summative assessment
 - Evaluate performance against a standard
 - Usually "high stakes"
 - Primary responsibility of member boards
- Formative assessment
 - Monitor learning by providing ongoing feedback
 - Identify gaps to guide learning
 - Often "low stakes"
- ABMS member boards moving to a hybrid model - formative assessment with summative features – **There is a standard**

Ten Year Exam

OLA



Why ABR OLA?

- To improve the formative aspects of assessment and better support more daily activity aspects of clinical medical physics
- Focus on a more convenient assessment approach
 - While maintaining a rigorous evaluation of diplomate knowledge
 - Support continuous professional development through lifelong learning
- Target for OLA content – Walking Around Knowledge
 - The type of questions you may get from colleagues, referring MDs, trainees, patients or technologists (therapists)



Who Can Participate In OLA?

- All diplomates with valid ABR certificate that are participating in MOC
 - 2019 – Diagnostic Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology subspecialties
 - as of July 1, 17,936 diplomates have answered at least one OLA question. 667,743 OLA questions have been answered.
 - 2020 – **Medical Physics, Radiation Oncology, & Interventional Radiology**
- Diplomates with a Lifetime certificate may voluntarily enroll in MOC but must also meet all other MOC requirements
- You must be current with your MOC exam to enter ABR OLA



Some Basic Points

- How will I know I have questions to answer?
 - You will receive a weekly email reminder with a link to your OLA home page
 - On your homepage you will see how many questions are available
- How many questions do I have to answer?
 - 52 questions per year per certificate
 - OLA will deliver 2 question opportunities per week per certificate
 - OLA will store up to 8 questions per certificate
- What if a question is not relevant to my practice?
 - You can decline to answer up to 10 questions per year



Some Basic Points (cont.)

- How should I prepare for OLA?
 - Study should not be required. OLA is not an exam, it's a assessment of your every day knowledge which occurs over several years
- Weekly questions? What if I need time off?
 - OLA is flexible and designed to allow you up to 6 months off every year
- What if I only want to be reminded once a month, or not at all?
 - You can change your communication preferences from your myABR dashboard



Some Basic Points (cont.)

- Do I need to enroll in OLA if I'm already in MOC?
 - No. If you are currently participating in MOC, you will be automatically enrolled in OLA
- Which browser platforms are supported?
 - Chrome, Firefox and Safari.
 - Minimum display resolution of 1024x768



OLA Demonstration

When Will My Performance Be Evaluated?

- Performance evaluations at Annual Review (March 2nd each year)
 - After you have answered 200 questions
 - Evaluations each year at annual review thereafter
- OLA is criterion referenced
 - OLA is not graded on a curve
 - Each question is evaluated individually and the aggregate rating for your 200 questions is the passing standard
- Participating as a question rater
 - Watch an online video which explains the question rating process
 - Take a short quiz



When Will My Performance Be Evaluated?

- **How long will it take to answer 200 questions?**
 - For diplomates beginning OLA in 2019 and answering 52 questions per year, the first evaluation will occur on March 2, 2023. For those answering more than 52 questions per year, the first evaluation may occur earlier.
- **How will I know if my OLA score is above the passing standard?**
 - After you've answered 52 questions, your performance will appear on your OLA dashboard. This graph will show your performance as it relates to the passing standard for the questions you have answered.
- **What will happen if I'm below the passing standard after 200 questions?**
 - At the next annual review, your MOC status will change from "Meeting" to "Not Meeting" requirements. This change does not affect your certification and you have one year to remediate your OLA performance.



When Will My Performance Be Evaluated?

- **How do I remediate my OLA performance if I'm below the passing standard?**
- If you answer additional OLA questions and your performance rises above the passing standard at any time over the 12 months between annual reviews, your MOC status will immediately change from "Not Meeting" to "Meeting" the requirements for MOC.
- It is important to remember that upgrades to your MOC status can occur at any time. Downgrades can only occur on March 2, at the MOC annual review.
- If you prefer, you can take and pass a traditional exam. Doing so will ensure your MOC Part 3 status will remain "Meeting" for five years. Also, after passing an exam, OLA will be re-set and any previous scoring deficit will be removed.



When Will My Performance Be Evaluated?

- **How is the passing standard set for OLA?**
- The passing standard for OLA is criterion referenced; OLA is not graded on a curve. The passing standard for each OLA question is established individually and the aggregate rating for your 200 questions defines your passing standard.
- **Who sets the passing standard for OLA questions?**
- The passing standard for each question is established by OLA participants who volunteer as question raters. This is an important characteristic of OLA; the radiology community will set the passing standard for each question.



ABR OLA Security

- Access to OLA is password protected as part of the diplomate's ABR account
- Diplomates are required to attest annually that they are answering questions themselves without help or references
- Images are watermarked to identify and deter the use of ABR OLA images through screen shots, etc.



How Will ABR OLA Be Better For Me?

To review:

- OLA eliminates the need for, and the cost of, travel
- It does not require you to study
- It requires very little time away from your practice
- It offers immediate feedback with rationale and references
- Incorrect answers are followed-up with similar question a few weeks later
- It is focused and relevant to your daily practice
- It is designed to be a gradual non-stressful experience
- It is flexible – Within broad guidelines you decide how often to engage with OLA



OLA RESOURCES

- OLA Scoring and Performance Evaluation FAQs
- <https://www.theabr.org/online-longitudinal-assessment-ola#scoring-eval>
- OLA Webinar
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCeWCAoGAzo&t=19s>



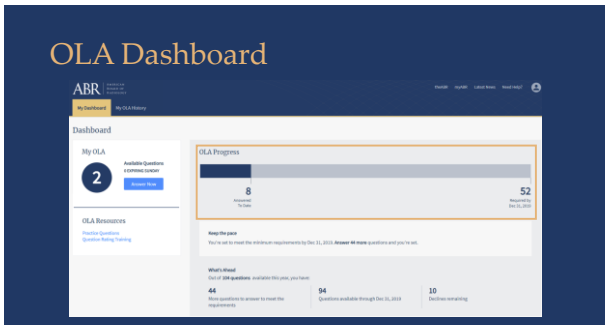


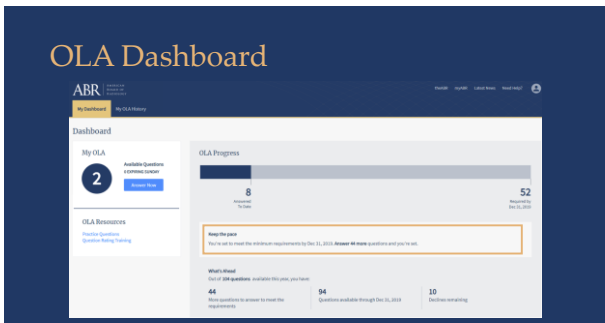
QUESTIONS?

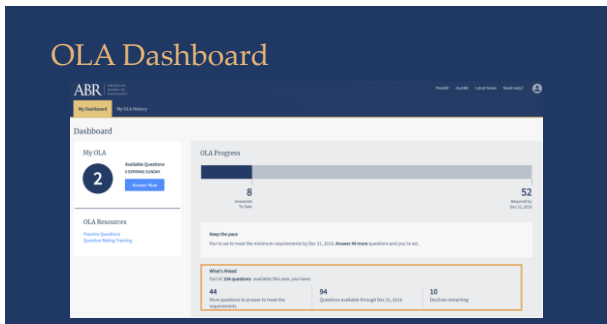
Please contact your ABR Certification Advisor at:
 information@theABR.org
 or
 (520) 519-2152



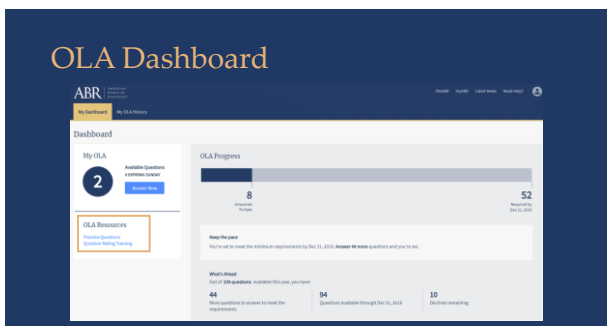
In case live demo does not work, use following slides



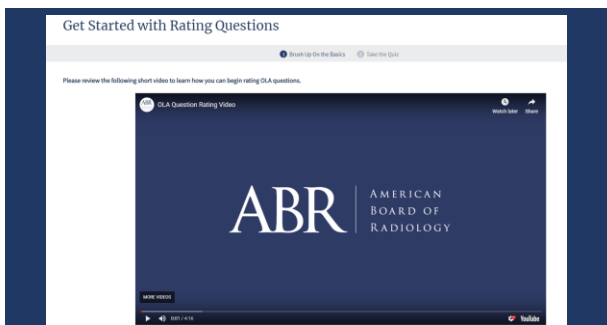




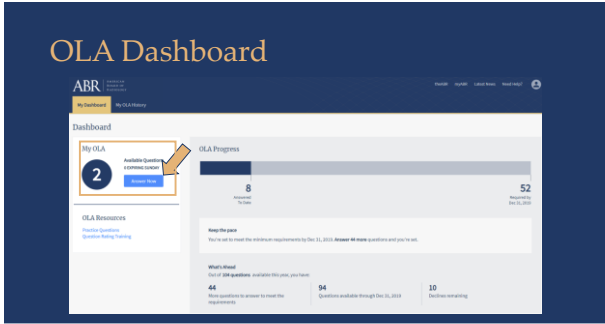
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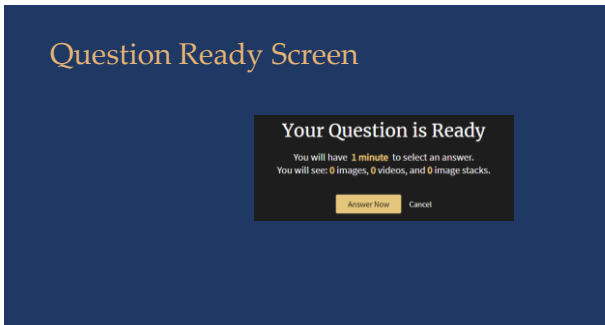


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To Improve Your OLA Experience, Tell Us What You Think **Stop**

1. How **confident** are you in your answer?

Not Confident Somewhat Confident Neutral Confident Very Confident

2. How **relevant** is this question to your daily practice?

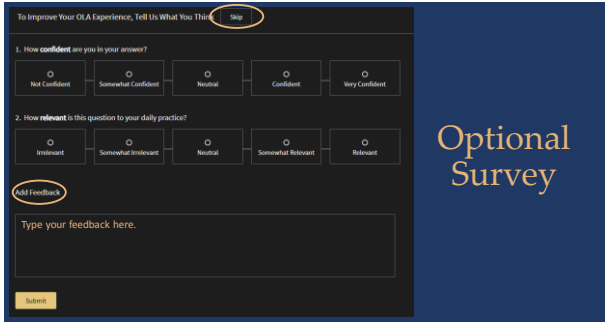
Irrelevant Somewhat Irrelevant Neutral Somewhat Relevant Relevant

Add Feedback

Type your feedback here.

Submit

Optional Survey



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Nuclear Sample Feedback

Yes And Correct

Which of the following is the most appropriate material to use for shielding a syringe containing a positron emitter?

Aluminum

Lead

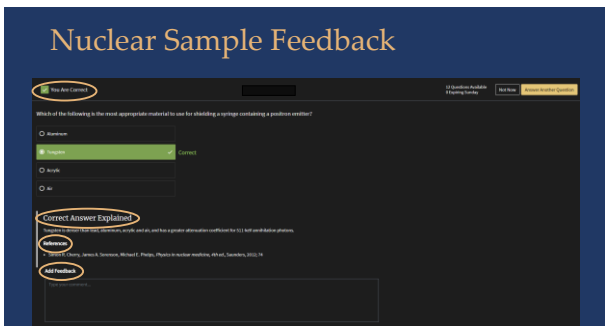
Acrylic

Air

Correct Answer Explained

Answer:

Add Feedback



ABR

Diagnostic Sample Question

0:57 REMAINING

For a fixed technique CT scan protocol, how does a decrease in patient size affect patient dose?

No effect

Patient dose decreases

Patient dose increases

Submit Answer **Decline**

10 of 10 Remain

Released by ABR
Jan 15, 2019



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