

OSCE Practice: Zooming Through

Creating a peer-led online mock OSCE teaching programme for undergraduate medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic

Aims

OSCEs are timed exams where students interact with simulated patients. They are widely used in UK medical schools.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were no traditional mock OSCEs for University of Leeds medical students.

85% of students felt that their exam revision had been negatively affected by restrictions.

An virtual mock OSCE teaching programme was created with the aim to facilitate OSCE preparation for medical students.

Methods

Two five-station mock OSCEs were designed and delivered to **162 students** over **three months**.

Medical students & doctors acted as patients & examiners. Stations reflected the University of Leeds MBChB curriculum for 3rd & 4th year students.

Zoom was used as an online platform. Mock patients & examiners received briefs of stations & mark schemes 2 days prior. **Candidates rotated through a series of 'breakout rooms'** containing different stations. Each station lasted 8 minutes, with 2 further minutes for feedback.



Results

86% of students felt that the zoom format worked well.

88% felt the programme had aided exam preparation & 86% felt the format was representative of exams.

Student advantages:

- Followed in-person OSCE format
- Could be **accessed in any location**
- Less intimidating than in-person

Examiner advantages:

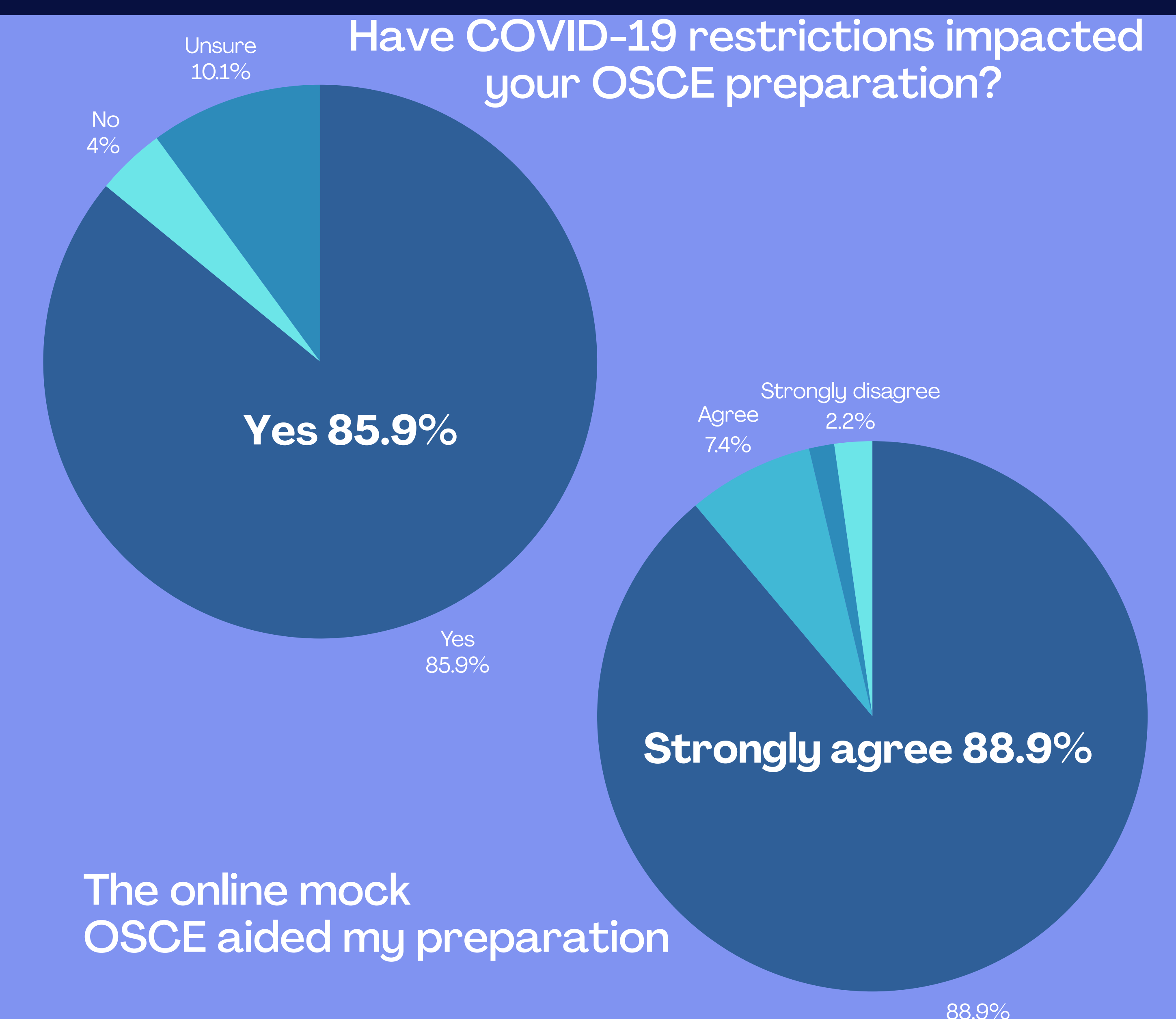
- **Quick & easy to deliver online feedback**
- Could screen-share results e.g. ECG & bloods
- Teaching opportunity for portfolio during restrictions

Limitations:

- Connection difficulties
- Not being able to simulate physical exams
- Logistics of organising breakout rooms

'Time efficient'

'The programme aided my exam preparation'



Conclusion

Students found this online mock OSCE teaching programme useful in preparing them for their exams.

This format is easily replicable & adaptable to different medical school curriculums.

References

Zayyan M. Objective structured clinical examination: the assessment of choice. Oman Med J. 2011 Jul;26(4):219-22. doi: 10.5001/omj.2011.55. PMID: 22043423; PMCID: PMC3191703.

University of Leeds MBChB Curriculum. available from: <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/5580/medicine-and-surgery-mbchb>