ASCO In-Training Exam (ITE)

Description
The Medical Oncology In-Training Exam (MedOnc ITE) is a six-hour, 200 question internet exam and is case-based and multiple choice, with only one correct answer for each question. It is not pass/fail in nature, but a low-stakes exam intended for self-evaluation and program improvement. The goal is to get a snapshot of the training program, as well as trainee knowledge. The exam is available world-wide, and fellows/trainees take it at their home institutions in a formal, proctored environment.

The exam is developed annually in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), ASCO Staff, and ASCO’s Test Materials Development Committee (TMDC) Working Group. The TMDC Working Group is made up of 12 members each with a specific and different area of expertise. Each member of the TMDC creates 10-15 new exam questions per year.

Why is this data important; what makes it unique?
- Objective measurement of knowledge among current trainees in a manner compliant with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements
- Support to establish consistency in educational standards across training programs
- Provision of a benchmark and a tool to improve training
- Identification of areas of strength and areas for improvement in individual training programs
- Allows program directors to evaluate an individual’s progress within the training program
- Allows comparison of results against other trainees, as reported in the score reports

Links to publications
- Developing an In-Training Examination for Fellows: The Experience of the American Society of Clinical Oncology
- Medical Knowledge Assessment by Hematology and Medical Oncology In-Training Examinations Are Better Than Program Director Assessments at Predicting Subspecialty Certification Examination Performance
- ASCO In-Training Exam Score Reports: What You Do with It Matters Most!

Is the data available elsewhere?
This is an ASCO data source and not publicly available elsewhere.

Design
- Online format, 200 questions
- Case-based, multiple choice, one correct answer per question
- Targeting medical oncology trainees and training programs both domestically and internationally
Variables

The category composite scores for 2019 include the list below, but there is variation from year to year. Please check the data dictionary for each year to see exact.

- Palliative Care/Supportive Care
- Survivorship
- Pharmacology & Anticancer Therapeutics
- Clinical Research Methodology
- Ethics
- Genetics & Tumor Biology
- Hematologic Neoplasms
- Breast Cancer
- Gastrointestinal Cancer
- Thoracic Cancer
- Genitourinary Cancer
- Gynecologic Cancer
- Head, Neck, Thyroid & Central Nervous System Malignancies
- Other Solid Tumors
- Geriatric Oncology Items developed throughout all/any content areas and coded so that they can be scored and evaluated

Sample Size/number of Respondents

- ITE participation has steadily increased over the years, with 100% participation from training programs within the United States
- ASCO has data annually from 2008
- Recent participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Programs</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Trainees</td>
<td>1607</td>
<td>1780</td>
<td>1821</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Directors/Faculty</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Participation</td>
<td>1634</td>
<td>1816</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>1862</td>
<td>1899</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data Formats

- Excel
- CSV
Limitations

- Only data that is de-identified will be shared
- This test is not required and does not represent every fellow
- Actual exam questions cannot be shared
- There are fewer than five fellowship training programs with a very large number of fellows relative to other programs. To allow these few fellowship programs that have a very large number of fellows to remain unidentifiable, we randomly selected a subset of fellows from those institutions and removed their ITE results from the dataset.

Data Dictionary

- A practice exam is available [here](#).

Sample Data

- See sample dataset.