

**Freedman et al. The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. Vol. 80-A. No. 10.
October 1998. The Adequacy of Medical School Education in Musculoskeletal
Medicine**

Abstract: A basic familiarity with musculoskeletal disorders is essential for all medical school graduates. The purpose of the current study was to test a group of recent medical school graduates on basic topics in musculoskeletal medicine in order to assess the adequacy of their preparation in this area.

Design: Basic competency test sent to all 157 chairpersons of orthopedic residency programs in the US. To assess the criterion validity, the examination was administered to eight chief residents in orthopedic surgery. The study population comprised of all 85 residents who were in their first postgraduate year at our institution; the examination was administered on their first day of residency.

The mean passing score that they recommended for the assessment of basic competency was 73.1.

The mean score for the 8 orthopedic chief residents was 98.5.

The mean score for the 85 residents in their first postgraduate year was 59.6.

In summary:

70 of 85 medical school graduates failed a valid musculoskeletal competency examination. We therefore believe that medical school preparation in musculoskeletal medicine is inadequate.