Does French Translation of the SAMP Examination Impact Performance?

Brian J. Hess, PhD; Sonia Labbé, MSc; Tatjana Lozanovska, MEd; Ed Ziesmann, BA, BScPT, MBA; Brent Kvern, MD, CCFP, FCFP

The College of Family Physicians of Canada

**Background**

To maintain the validity of the CFPC Certification Examination in Family Medicine, it is important that the CFPC utilize a robust translation process to ensure that the French version of the examination is equitable to the English version.

**Objective**

To determine if candidates completing the French translated Short Answer Management Problem (SAMP) examination component perform similar to candidates completing the English version.

**Methods**

All residents from 17 family medicine residency programs in Canada completing the SAMP component of the certification examination for the first time.

- Spring 2022 (N=1,407) > English=1,039; French=368
- Fall 2022 (N=93) > English=68; French=25
- Spring 2023 (N=1,369) > English=1,036; French=333

**Findings**

- Language was a weak but statistically significant predictor of passing the Spring 2022 exam (French vs. English OR=0.40; 95% CI: 0.23-0.72)
  - SAMP pass rate for both language groups was > 90%

**Design and Analysis**

The SAMP is a written case-based exam comprised of short-answer management problems designed to test clinical reasoning abilities related to identifying and managing health problems.

**Data Analysis**

Statistical analyses were conducted comparing the performance of English and French candidates on individual SAMP cases and questions.

The exam committee reviewed questions with statistically significant performance differences; questions were removed from scoring if the difference was a result of ambiguity of meaning present in either language, translation error, or marking issue.

For each case, patient info is provided followed by 3 to 5 questions – each requires between 1 to 5 answers.

A typical SAMP has 40 cases and approx 140 to 160 questions per form. Multiple forms with equating used in Spring.

A certified medical translator translates the approved English content into Canadian French, and the CFPC Translation team reviews for accuracy and clarity.

Then, an independent native French-speaking bilingual family physician reviews the translation to ensure Canadian French medical terminology is used.

**Conclusion**

The French translation of the SAMP examinations did not result in significant performance differences between the two language groups.