Impact of Novel Board Resources on COMLEX-USA Level 1 Pathology Performance
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Background
Pathology remains one of the major components of the medical school foundational biomedical science curriculum. Recent advancements in educational technology have seen a surge of novel resources available to both supplement what is taught in the classroom and provide high-yield review for licensure examinations. Identifying characteristics of recently released resources that appeal to the current generation of medical students can help medical educators more effectively prepare their students for COMLEX Level 1.

Objective
This study aims to characterize the qualities of novel board preparatory resources that students found most effective for their COMLEX Level 1 pathology performance.

Methods
An anonymous questionnaire was distributed to Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - New York (Harlem) students who recently took COMLEX Level 1 to gather demographics and responses towards different pathology board preparatory resources. All participants were given access to the survey via email. The survey was distributed and completed by participants electronically using the online service SurveyMonkey. Participants were provided with a brief explanation prior to the survey, via SurveyMonkey, with the option to decline. Responses were recorded on a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 corresponding to "strongly disagree" and 5 corresponding to "strongly agree".

Data Analysis/Results
44 surveys were included in this preliminary study. Participants were surveyed on which resource was crucial in preparation for COMLEX Level 1 Pathology, their most preferred preparatory resource for the exam, whether or not the school’s curriculum alone was sufficient for the exam, and an open comment section for additional insight regarding their preferred pathology resources. Results were grouped based on class year and age at time of COMLEX Level 1 preparation (ranges: 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+ years old). 65.64% of participants surveyed indicated that ‘Pathoma: Fundamentals of Pathology’ was their most valued resource in preparing for the COMLEX Level 1 Pathology Subsection (n=28). Over 90% of all participants indicated that question banks (COMBANK, UWorld, etc.) were crucial for COMLEX Level 1 pathology preparation, followed by ‘Pathoma: Fundamentals of Pathology’ (~80%) and ‘First Aid’ Pathology subsections (~50%). Conversely, most participants “strongly disagreed” that ‘BRS-Pathology’ and ‘Robbins and Cotran Review of Pathology’ (Textbook) were crucial for COMLEX Level 1 pathology preparation, which also correlated with the resources that the fewest students used. The aforementioned trends showed no significant differences when comparing class year and age at time of COMLEX Level 1 preparation.

This resource was crucial in preparing me for the COMLEX Level 1 Pathology Subsection:

Conclusion
The landscape of board preparatory resources has been constantly changing, with novel resources, across various media, made available every year to supplement the current medical curriculum. Our preliminary findings showed that students generally preferred digital resources over traditional textbooks and paper resources. Identifying characteristics of recently released resources that appeal to the current generation of medical students can help medical educators improve their curriculum and become more effective in preparing their students for COMLEX Level 1.

Survey

References
2. Klett EC and Klett CA, How much is too much reading for medical students? Assigned reading and reading rates at one medical school, Academic Medicine, 86(9): 1079-83, September 2011