What Is Wrong With The American Board of Surgery's MOC System For Vascular Surgeons And What Can Be Done To Fix It

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Chair, American Board of Surgery

Disclosures
- Nothing to Disclose

American Board of Surgery

Directors
Circa 1939

Founded in 1937 by the leading surgical societies to differentiate formally trained surgeons from doctors in general practice

"Improve the Specialty of Surgery"
"To Protect the Public"

American Board(s) of Surgery

- Vascular Surgery Board
- Pediatric Surgery Board
- General Surgery Board
- Trauma and critical care board
- Surgical oncology board

American Board of Surgery

2018/2019

Extensive Restructuring of the ABS

American Board(s) of Surgery

- Vascular Surgery Board
- Pediatric Surgery Board
- General Surgery Board
- Trauma and critical care board
- Surgical oncology board
Vascular Surgery Board

- Gib Upchurch - Chair
- 12 directors of the vascular board
- Societies (SVS (4), VESS, APDVS, SCVS, New England, Eastern, Midwestern, Western)
- Relatively autonomous function

Vascular Board – has two roles

- To assure competence of surgeons finishing training
- To assure competence of surgeons in practice (maintenance of certification or MOC)

Is it important to keep on learning after surgical training

(Is MOC important)

Doubling Time for Medical Knowledge

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1988

2018

There is much to keep up with because....

we are the complete vascular specialists...

so there is much to learn

- Medical management and treatment of vascular disease
- Endovascular Surgery
- Open Surgery

Our hospitals and patients pay attention to board certification
Patients are checking “Check a Certification” feature on ABS website receives an average of 24,000 visits per month.

Maintenance of Certification (the old system)
Diplomates enroll in MOC once they finish their initial certification
- Professional standing verified (privileged in a hospital or surgical center – two letters of recommendation)
- Requirement for CME credits (150/3 year, 50 self-assessment)
- Secure formative exam required every 10 years
- Evaluation of Performance in Practice (participate in a registry)

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
- Diplomates were dissatisfied with the traditional MOC process
- 10-year secure exam was:
  - Stressful
  - required extensive preparation and study time
  - Travel to a testing center
  - Study courses were expensive

We surveyed vascular surgeons (2017)

So we responded---designed a new process----well received by vascular surgeons!

Thank You

Gib Upchurch will describe