

Professional Accreditation in Spain

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Definitions

What is Accreditation?

- Accreditation/Certification (endorsement)
 - ◆ “Making credible or proving its certitude ”
 - ◆ Voluntary
 - ◆ Purpose: motivational
 - ◆ Aim: improvement of quality



Scientific Societies



Definitions

What is not Accreditation?

- **Authorisation**

- ◆ “Giving permission to do something ”

- ◆ Obligatory

- ◆ Purpose: legislative

- ◆ Aim: minimum standard criteria demanded

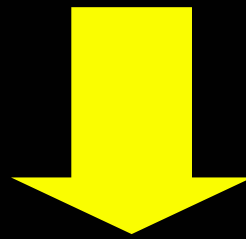


Health Care Authorities



Accreditation objectives

- Quality improvement in favor of patients
- Recognition and encouragement of professional training investment

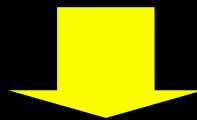


- Contain professional intrusism
- Avoid HR subspecialty trivialization



Accreditation Organization

- ◆ Independent of finance & provision of health care services
- ◆ With credibility
- ◆ With consensus power
- ◆ Capable of setting statements and guidelines



Spanish Society of Cardiology

WG on Electrophysiology & Arrhythmias



Accreditation System Fundamentals

- Voluntary
- Adequate to health care system reality
- Independency & credibility of the Accreditation Committee
- Credibility & objetivity of the process



1998 Spanish Accreditation w/o evaluation *Advantages*

- 👉 Quick (immediate)
- 👉 Simple & cheap
- 👉 “Politically correct”



1998 Spanish Accreditation w/o evaluation *Disadvantages*

- ✎ Arbitrary & not rigorous
- ✎ Reputation of SWG-EA will be questioned
- ✎ Corporative impression – restrict access competitors:
 - New colleagues
 - Other non-cardiologist professionals
- ✎ Low changes to be guidance for third parties
- ✎ Useless additional burocratic requirement
- ✎ Unfair system



Accreditation w/o examination

- Do we trust it?
- If not....
Will it be trusted by others?
- Is it reasonable and desirable or
is there conflict of interests?



Resolution:

“No pain, no gain”



Accreditation System

Professional candidate evaluation

- Practical skills

- ☞ Enrollment in an Training Unit for 1 y

- ☞ Experience

Or

- Global training

- ☞ Theoretical evaluation

High quality

Highest protection for patients



“And”





AMERICAN BOARD *of*
INTERNAL
MEDICINE

Requirements

Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology	12/12 mo	Electrophysiologic studies including mapping, both with a catheter and intraoperatively; surgical and other ablation procedures; and implantation of pacemakers, cardioverters and defibrillators (a minimum of 150 intracardiac procedures in at least 75 patients, of which 75 are catheter ablation procedures, including postdiagnostic testing, and 25 are initial implantable cardioverter-defibrillator procedures, including programming).
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- 1. BC in Cardiology**
- 2. Training unit / Experience**
- 3. ABIM Exam**



System



Accreditation Committee

● Initial

- ◆ J. Almendral
- ◆ J. Brugada
- ◆ FG. Cosío
- ◆ A. Moya
- ◆ R. Garcia Civera

● Present

- ◆ F. Arribas
- ◆ A. Arenal
- ◆ J. Martínez Sánchez
- ◆ J. Martínez-Alday
- ◆ J. Ormaetxe
- ◆ R. Peinado



Executive Board: JL. Merino / M. López Gil



Accreditation of Professionals



Requirements

- **Cardiologist specialist title**
- **EP training:**
 - ☞ 1 year in a teaching center
- **Exam**



Requirements (2)

- **Cardiologist specialist title**
- **EP training:**
 - ☞ **100 EP diagnostic studies + 100 Ablations in 3 Ys**
- **Exam**



Exam

- Random selection of 120 Qs
 - ◆ 80% ECG-EP tracings
 - ◆ Average difficulty: 2.7 (1-5)
- Passing score
 - ◆ >75% of the best scores: **difficult exam artifact**
(sample 10%)
 - ◆ >60% at least: **poorly qualified participants artifact**



List of procedures

- **Data**

- ☞ **Dx EP or ABL**
- ☞ **Patient initials**
- ☞ **Hospital or Unit identification**
- ☞ **Date**
- ☞ **Diagnosis**
- ☞ **Outcome**
- ☞ **Complications**

- **Audited**



Results



2003 exam

- Highest score: 114
- Mean top score (5 top): 109.2 ± 2.9
- Lowest score: 56

- Passing score : 81.9 (68%)

Out of 120 Qs

36 out 41 participants pass it



Results

	Applicants	Passed Exam	Audited
● 2003	44	36	36
● 2004	16	12	11
● -			
● 2006	22	18	18
Total	84	66	65



List of fully Accredited

- Jesus Almendral
- Fernando Arribas
- Josep Brugada
- Francisco G. Cosio
- Angel Moya
- Jose L. Merino
-many others



Accreditation of Training Centers



Requirements

Unit within a Cardiology department & directed by Accredited Professional

- Patient care capacity

- ☞ ≥ 2 Accredited Professionals
- ☞ ≥ 150 Abl per y

- Training capacity

- ☞ Center officially accredited for Cardiology specialization training

- Research capacity

- ☞ 3 Abstracts, 1 publication in the last 3 y



Conclusions

- **Professional endorsement**
(no legal authorization but may evolve to have legal implications)
- **Key: high standards, objective and privacy**
- **Key: KOL and senior EP involvement**



