Otomatch, AAMC and NRMP: How Do They Match Up? Comparison of Applicant Data for Individuals Applying to Otolaryngology Residency

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INTRODUCTION

- Otolaryngology has a highly competitive residency application process with currently more applicants than positions available annually.
- Otomatch.com, founded in 2001, is a highly utilized website created to address otolaryngology Match-related questions and concerns, including a public spreadsheet for applicants to enter personal application statistics and match statistics.
- The goal of this study is to assess the accuracy of the self-reported academic metrics on Otomatch.com with official statistics from the National Residency Match Program (NRMP) Charting Outcomes Report and Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Report on Residents.

METHODS

- Measures of interest included Step 1 scores, Step 2 CK scores, publications, number of interview invitations, number of interviews attended, and AOA status.
- ANOVA and two-tailed T tests were performed to compare variables within each match year.
- Statistical significance was set at \( p \leq 0.05 \)

RESULTS

**Otomatch vs. AAMC/NRMP**

- We found differences between Otomatch and NRMP/AAMC data in mean Step 2 CK scores and publications.
- We found no significant difference between Otomatch and NRMP/AAMC data in mean Step 1 score, mean number of programs ranked, and percentage of applicants invited into AOA.
- Match Rate was higher in Otomatch than NRMP data.

**Otomatch Private Survey vs Public Forum**

- Differences in Interview Invites & Interviews Attended between the Otomatch public forum and private survey, varied by year.
- The differences found in academic metrics are due to data collection artefacts rather than true differences.
- Step 2 CK - due to rounding effects
- Publications - differences in the definition of a publication

CONCLUSION

- Our findings suggest that online platforms such as Otomatch.com can provide accurate, anonymous, and crowdsourced application statistics for applicants.
- This study will be the basis of future studies on online forums such as Otomatch.com as important changes to residency applications are on the horizon.

REFERENCES

- American Association of Medical Colleges, Charting Outcomes of the Match, 2018, 2019: American Association of Medical Colleges, Washington, DC, 2020

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