



**Figure 4** Percentage of raters who determined the resident's performance to be above the set passing threshold of competence ( $\geq 70\%$  of items correct on the checklist and  $\geq 3/5$  on each item on the global rating scale) for Station 3: Phacoemulsification—Wound Construction & Suturing Technique.

Ensuring the surgical competency of residents is a critical component of every ophthalmology residency programme. The traditional forms of surgical skills assessment, unstructured summative faculty evaluations written at the end of a rotation and faculty meetings with discussion of residents' abilities, are inadequate. We have now collected evidence that the ESSAT is a reliable and valid new assessment tool. Complemented by other new assessment methods that will evaluate residents' skills in the operating room<sup>3,4</sup> and with simulation technologies,<sup>5,6</sup> the ESSAT could help guarantee that all residents achieve surgical competence during their residency training.

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JBT was supported by a Doris Duke Fellowship, and GB was supported by a Heed Fellowship and Society of Heed Fellows Fellowship.

Competing interests: None.

Material in this manuscript was presented at the Association for University Professors of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, February 2007, the Scheie Eye Institute 132nd Anniversary Meeting, May 2006 and the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, November 2006.

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