Portfolio for Clinical Medical Education

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Portfolios were introduced with the aim of improving the learning and assessment of doctors.

Erik Driessen believes that they work well when used correctly, but Geoff Norman remains unconvinced.
Are learning portfolios worth the effort? No

Geoff Norman, professor. 2008, McMaster University, Canada
Learning portfolios

defined by one group as

"a collection of a learner’s work that gives evidence of learning and may be used for the purposes of assessment" have received increased attention of educators over the past few years.
Driessen and colleagues: the learning portfolio was a tool for formative and summative assessment at all levels from undergraduate to post-professional education.

The learning portfolio is not just another learning or assessment method.

It is really a Jack of all trades, appearing in multiple guises to do almost anything we demand: any level from novice to expert.

report on "work done, feedback received, progress made and plans for improving competence."
So I will attempt some general observations.

- It is a portfolio with individually specified content.
- It’s difficult to make generalizations about the value of the method.
- It also creates difficulties for anyone.
- Like asking whether drugs are good for treating disease.
Lack of evidence

- consistent with the rhetoric,
- most people regarded learning portfolios as useful for reflective learning, professional development, etc,
- this conclusion was based almost entirely on self perception.
difficulty assessing themselves.

lot of work to write and mark

self assessments = legitimate performance measures?

Use a lot of time.

Lack of evidence
Some study

only 35% of trainees thought it provided an opportunity to analyze critical clinical incidents

the evidence of reliability and validity is quite sparse.

Several studies of inter-rater reliability showed an average reliability of 0.63, which is only marginally acceptable.

only 15% thought it analyzed critical incidents of professional behavior;

only about half of trainee doctors and supervisors thought portfolios were "a good idea" and trainees described a "sense of burden"
"quality of reflection" assessed by review of the portfolio predicted the final grade

unrepresentative sample of performance

no studies have looked at this how much selective content sampling is affecting
What does it show?

anonymity of the culture of lecture learning and final examinations.

It may not be possible stimulates learning.

There is really no evidence, despite the rhetoric.
But,
Another idea:
Are learning portfolios worth the effort? Yes

Erik Driessen, assistant professor Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, Netherlands
In medical portfolio part 2

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