Clinical Relevance of the Doctor’s Dilemma Question Set

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Introduction
It is our eventual goal to create a computational system which answers all types of textual clinical questions. To do so, we need a set of questions to train on. Such questions must be topically diverse within medicine, and be clinically relevant. We have examined the Doctor’s Dilemma [1] question set to determine if it meets those criteria.

Clinical Relevance
A question is clinically relevant if it’s one which could occur to a doctor during clinical practice, regardless of whether it’s something they know already or might have to look up. In the past, the IBM Watson group has made use of a subset of the Doctor’s Dilemma questions in developing Medical Watson [2], but they only used the diagnosis-type questions, which are clearly clinically relevant.

Doctor’s Dilemma
Residents compete in what is essentially “medical jeopardy” every year at the annual ACP Internal Medicine Meeting. Also called “Medical Jeopardy”, up to 50 teams compete each year over a 3-day period for the Osler Cup. Just like in televised Jeopardy, harder questions have higher point values. For practice, the game can also be played online on the ACP’s website. The online version of the Doctor’s Dilemma competition. Updated monthly, each installment contains 26 categories. The categories cover a diverse set of topics and subfields throughout medicine.

Doctor’s Dilemma Question Set
As of February 2015, there were 1110 questions in the Doctor’s Dilemma question set, across 26 categories. The categories cover a diverse set of topics and subfields throughout medicine.

References

Results
As expected, some questions from the History category were trivia, and not really related to clinical practice. For example:

“Nobel awardee for discovery of insulin.”
We were surprised to find that half of the History category were relevant though, including questions such as:

“Previous name for reactive arthritis.”

Toward Question Answering: Representing Questions as Graph Queries

“Most common causes of postpartum thyrotoxicosis.”

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank the ACP for allowing us to use the Doctor’s Dilemma questions in this research.