

**Fig. 1**

**GLOBAL RATING SCALE OF OPERATIVE PERFORMANCE**

Please circle the number corresponding to the candidate's performance in each category, irrespective of training level

<b>Respect for Tissue :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Frequently used unnecessary force on tissue or caused damage by inappropriate use of instruments		Careful handling of tissue but occasionally caused inadvertent damage		Consistently handled tissue appropriately with minimal damage
<b>Time and Motion :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Many unnecessary moves		Efficient time/motion but some unnecessary moves		Clear economy of movement and maximum efficiency
<b>Instrument Handling :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Repeatedly makes tentative or awkward moves with instruments by inappropriate use of instruments		Competent use of instruments but occasionally appeared stiff or awkward		Fluid moves with instruments and no awkwardness
<b>Knowledge of Instruments :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Frequently asked for wrong instrument or used inappropriate instrument		Knew names of most instruments and used appropriate instrument		Obviously familiar with the instruments and their names
<b>Flow of Operation :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Frequently stopped operating and seemed unsure of next move		Demonstrated some forward planning with reasonable progression of procedure		Obviously planned course of operation with effortless flow from one move to the next
<b>Use of Assistants :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Consistently placed assistants poorly or failed to use assistants		Appropriate use of assistants most of time		Strategically used assistants to the best advantage at all time
<b>Knowledge of Specific Procedure :</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
Deficient knowledge. Needed specific instruction at most steps		Knew all important steps of operation		Demonstrated familiarity with all aspects of operation

The global rating scale used in the Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATS) [2], which we used to score the skills of each surgical trainee in performing or assisting in real operations. Full marks are 35 points on 7 items and 30 points on 6 items, respectively, as a surgeon and as an assistant (in the case of assistant, 'Use of Assistant' is excluded from the scoring)