

ALPHABET SOUP

I recently was asked to give a talk on the organizational acronyms in optometry as part of an orientation series to our first year class. I started by telling these students that I was sometimes hard to reach at the college. For example, I was at the AOA convention in June, but couldn't attend the COVD meeting in October because it conflicted with one of three annual full COE meetings. Further, about an hour before I appeared before the class, I had made hotel reservations for the AAO meeting in December, and while in Orlando, would be at sub-committee meetings for ASCO and man the room provided for residency information by AOSA. I would also meet with several OEP people to discuss some plans for the JBO. However, I told the now very confused, but attentive audience, I was cutting down: after some 12 years I had gone off the NBEO's PMP committee. The rest of the talk consisted of defining these and some other acronyms they would encounter during the next four years, and discussing each of them in some detail.

What struck me was the degree to which these acronyms have become part of the optometric language. This then sparked the idea of the still other domain of acronyms these students will need to master during the next four years, i.e., the clinically-based alphabet soup.

Following is a list of abbreviations for various conditions, tests and names that are currently used in optometry. The underlying assumption is that, as defined by the American Optometric Association (AOA), the profession is one devoted to primary eye and vision care. Consequently, your ability to identify the various terms of alphabet soup will be an indication of the degree to which

you are knowledgeable about *all* the components of primary care optometry. Share this exercise with some of your colleagues who are not as behaviorally oriented as you, and see who scores higher as a primary eye and vision care practitioner. Score one point for each correct response.

ACRONYM QUIZ

1. AION
2. APD (or RAPD)
3. AR
4. ARC (or AC)
5. AVIT
6. BDR
7. BIM
8. BOP
9. BRVO
10. CAC
11. CI
12. CVA
14. DEM
15. DE
16. E (T)
17. GPC
18. MAR
19. MEM
20. MTBF
21. PMMA
22. POAG
23. RCE
24. RP
25. ROP
26. SOAP
27. SPK
28. SWAP
29. TBI
30. TBUT (or BUT)
31. TIA
32. TVPS
33. VMI
34. X

The answers appear on page 125.



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