The New ABNS Oral Examination: 2017

Purpose:
To improve the relevance of the examination to the actual neurosurgical practice of the applicant, and to the public.

Design:
1. To test on general neurosurgery principles that could arise “on call” or for consultation.
2. To test on the chosen focused practice type of the applicant, if they prefer one.
3. To test on the actual case practice of the applicant, using their own case material rather than created case scenarios.

General Format

Session 1: General neurosurgery (5 questions)

Session 2: Focused Practice. (Spine + PN, Tumor, Vascular, Functional, Trauma/Critical care, Pediatric, or General again) (5 questions)
   - Applicant will select a focused practice category in advance of the examination

Session 3: Applicant Cases (10 submitted, 5 chosen)
   - from the pool of 150 submitted cases, 10 will be chosen for oral exam discussion

Each session is 45 minutes.

Session 1: General Neurosurgery topics: (All examinees)

- trauma craniotomy
- Intracerebral hemorrhage (from any cause)
- Acute stroke care; hemicraniectomy, suboccipital decompression
- Vascular dissection
- Atherosclerotic vascular disease
- Brain or spinal abscess
- Intratumoral hemorrhage, pituitary apoplexy
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Spinal cord injury management
- Spinal fracture management
- Brain metastasis, adult glioblastoma, supratentorial meningioma
- Hydrocephalus
- Neurology (MS, temporal arteritis, other that mimics a surgical presentation)
- Baclofen pump failure, drug withdrawal/overdose
Session 2: Tumor session (Neuro-Oncology) topics:

- glioma management
- brain metastases
- meningioma
- vestibular or other schwannoma
- brain mapping
- pineal region tumor
- intraventricular tumors
- spinal tumors
- cns lymphoma
- pituitary/sellar tumors
- endoscopic surgery
- skull base tumors

Session 2:Vascular session topics:

- SAH/aneurysm care (clipping, endovascular)
- AVM
- AVF
- cavernous malformation
- Ischemic disease/Stroke
- endarterectomy
- bypass
- Moya-Moya disease

Session 2: Spine and peripheral nerve session topics:

- degenerative spine
- spinal tumors
- spinal vascular malformations
- spinal pain
- deformity
- instrumentation
- peripheral nerve (ulnar nerve/carpal tunnel/ brachial plexus/ lumbosacral plexus/ peroneal nerve/other)

Session 2: Functional session topics:

- movement disorders
- epilepsy
- pain, trigeminal neuralgia
- behavioral disorders
- neurology (Parkinson’s disease, Essential tremor)
Session 2: Trauma/Critical Care Session topics:

- brain, spine, peripheral nerve injury surgery
- injury physiology
- critical care management
- intracranial pressure management
- secondary injury
- infection
- systemic injuries

Session 2: Pediatric Neurosurgery Session topics:

- full spectrum of cranial and spinal pediatric neurosurgery

Session 3: Applicant Cases

1. 150 cases submitted as part of the credentials review
2. Case information provided in Standardized format
3. Data fields allow search and analytics
4. 10 Cases chosen for oral exam use (combination of director selection and random selection)
5. Case data fields will generate a slide presentation for each case to facilitate a standard presentation
6. Slides reviewed before the exam for completeness by an ABNS Director