

Preparing For Part II of the ABOS Exam

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Disclaimer: The OTA does not promote this as standards of practice. This is a helpful hints lecture prepared by an OTA member.

1. Qualifying for the Exam

When do I need to start practice?

- Must be in practice for 22 full months prior to exam (have privileges and start practice by **Sept 1**)
- Must be in one practice location for a minimum of 12 months during the 22-month period.

2. The Collection Period

- 6 month period from April – September
- Cases entered on electronic Scribe System at www.abos.org
- Tips during the collection period:
 - Enter cases daily
 - Dictate your own H&P's and Operative reports (Consents too?)
 - Discuss the situation with your residents ahead of time
 - Collect difficult to obtain case materials on an ongoing basis (e.g. outside films)
 - Take photographs
 - Save fluoroscopy

3. Selecting your 10 Cases

- 12 Cases selected by the ABOS out of which you will choose to discuss 10
- Prepare all 12 cases
- Some reasons for discarding a case:
 - Missed injuries
 - Poor follow-up of a complication
 - Questionable surgical indications
 - Disastrous technical errors

4. Studying for the Exam

- Literature search
- Read chapter in Skeletal Trauma
- Things to know:
 - Recent studies that have changed or challenged current practice or treatment
 - Classification
 - Radiographic findings/markers/lines
 - Common complications and complication rates

- Practice/Arrange Mock Boards
- Review cases with mentor/program director/fellowship director

5. Preparation of Case Materials

- Folders should be organized and easy for the examiners to follow
- Three copies of all notes
- Consider including the following sections:
 - History and Physical
 - Pre-operative Notes
 - **Consent**
 - Operative Report
 - Inpatient Notes
 - Outpatient Notes
 - Associated Surgery
 - Consults

- Radiographs

Bring printed hard copies (either film or photo paper)

Complete film series should include:

- Injury or pre-op film / CT / MRI
- Fluoroscopy Images (very important!)
- Post-op Film
- Final follow-up Film

Label films clearly

Label specific findings (e.g. specific panels of the CT demonstrating pathology)

Know which end is up

6. Taking the Exam

- REMEMBER to PAY FINAL EXAMINATION FEE

- Travel tips

- Arrive one day early
- Allow time for travel to airport (O'Hare up to 2 hours)
- Bring case materials as carry-on
- Book room at Palmer House Hilton early

- Have your best case prepared to go first, if given the option by the examiners

- Remember to discuss non-operative and operative treatment/options if appropriate

- Avoid confrontation with examiners that are apparently being difficult
- Do not try to show off knowledge
- Maintain steady pace to try to discuss as many cases as possible
- Be prepared to discuss your list of complications
- The examiners score you in the following areas:
 - Data gathering and interpretative skills
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - Technical Skills
 - Outcomes
 - Applied Knowledge

CALENDAR

- **April 1, 2009** – Applications and Scribe 6 month case collection program for the 2010 Part II examination available on website www.abos.org.
- **October 31, 2009** - Electronic submission deadline for completed application and fee payment, registered mail postmark deadline for finalized, signed and notarized Scribe 6 month case lists required documents.
- **November 15, 2009** - Late deadline for application and 6 month case lists along with \$350 late fee.
- **March/April** - Credentials Committee meets to determine admission to the examination.
- **April** - Letters of notification of admission to examination mailed to candidates.
Letter will state deadline for submission of examination fee.
- **April** - Candidates receive list of 12 cases selected with summary sheet and complication sheet for practice-based oral examination.
- **June** - Candidates receive examination assignments and admission cards.
- **July 21 – 23, 2010** - Part II examination, Palmer House, Chicago.
- **October** – Examination results sent to candidates and program directors.

RESOURCES:

Garret et. al. American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery Practice of the Orthopaedic Surgeon: Part II, Certification *J Bone Joint Surg Am*. 2006 Mar;88(3):660-7.

2010 Rules and Procedures: <https://www.abos.org/documents/2010RPPart2.doc>

OTA Website: <http://www.ota.org/fellowship/06PreparingforPartIIBoards.pdf>

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