



Before Licensing Examination > Useful Resources

Topics

The following is a list of topics for reference; the list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive. Candidates are expected to have a good understanding of the biomedical basis and clinical management, where appropriate, of these conditions. Please note that the same topic can appear in more than one discipline if deemed appropriate.

Surgery

Breast Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Mastitis and breast abscess

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of breast cancer
- Management of benign breast neoplasms
- Triple assessment
 - Interpretation of mammogram and breast ultrasound
 - Fine needle aspiration vs. core needle biopsy
- Breast cancer screening
- Breast cancer genetics

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Thoracic trauma
- Spontaneous pneumothorax
- Aortic dissection

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of lung cancer
- Interpretation of chest x-ray and CT thorax

Colorectal Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Lower gastrointestinal bleeding



- Intestinal obstruction
- Bowel ischaemia
- Acute appendicitis
- Acute diverticulitis and its complications
- Complications from inflammatory bowel diseases
- Anastomotic leakage
- Post-operative ileus

Elective Surgery Topics

- Screening for colonic polyps and cancers
- Management of colonic and rectal cancer
- Management of inflammatory bowel diseases
- Nutrition: enteral, parenteral
- Colonoscopy and its complications
- Bowel preparations
- Types and complications of stoma
- Functional colonic disorders including constipation and irritable bowel syndrome
- Management of proctology problems
 - Haemorrhoids
 - Fistula-in-ano
 - Anal fissures
 - Pilonidal sinus

Endocrine Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Management of hypercalcemia
- Management of Addisonian crisis

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of thyroid nodules
- Classifications of thyroid cancers
- Complications of thyroidectomy
- Management of hyperparathyroidism
- Management of adrenal nodules
- Pancreatic endocrine neoplasms



Oesophageal and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Upper gastrointestinal bleeding
- Perforated peptic ulcers
- Small bowel ischaemia
- Oesophageal perforation including Boerhaave syndrome

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of oesophageal cancer
- Management of dysphagia
- Peptic ulcer disease and its complications
- Gastric outlet obstruction
- Management of gastric cancer
- Types of gastrectomy
- Functional oesophageal disorders including achalasia

Hepatobiliary and Transplant Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Acute biliary tract infections
 - - Acute cholecystitis
 - - Acute cholangitis
 - - Biliary pancreatitis
 - - Recurrent pyogenic cholangitis
- Liver trauma - blunt or penetrating
- Liver abscess and its etiology
- Ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma
- Hepatic encephalopathy
- Splenic trauma and splenectomy

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of gallstone diseases
- Complications of cholecystectomy including bile duct injury
- Management of liver tumour (primary and secondary)
- Management of pancreatic cancer (curative and palliative surgery)
- Investigation of jaundice (including painless jaundice)



- Immunosuppression in transplant surgery

Neurosurgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Acute intracranial haemorrhage
- Head injury and management
- Spinal cord injury and compression - levels and classification

Elective Surgery Topics

- Glasgow Coma Score
- Brainstem death
- Intra-cranial pressure: hydrocephalus and management
- Brain tumours

Paediatric Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Necrotising enterocolitis
- Intussusception
- Testicular torsion

Elective Surgery Topics

- Hirschsprung's disease

Plastic, Head and Neck Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Burn injury
- Airway management
- Management of epistaxis
- Management of carotid blowout
- Facial trauma and its classifications

Elective Surgery Topics

- Approach to oral cavity tumours including tongue and buccal mucosa tumours
- Approach to cervical lymphadenopathy
- Management of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (including recurrence)



- Management of common skin cancers (including squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and melanoma)
- Parotid tumours and facial nerve palsy

Urology

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Acute retention of urine
- Testicular torsion and its differential diagnosis
- Pyelonephritis
- Ureteric obstruction

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of renal cell carcinoma and its complications (including vena caval thrombosis)
- Management of transitional cell carcinoma of urinary bladder and renal pelvis
- Management of ureteric stones
- Interpretation of uroflowmetry

Vascular Surgery

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Acute limb ischaemia
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm (repair techniques and its limitations)

Elective Surgery Topics

- Management of lower limb ulcers (ischaemic, venous and infective)
- Management of lymphoedema
- Management of asymptomatic abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Management of varicose veins
- Management of carotid diseases, including bypass and stenting
- Uses of common antiplatelet agents and anticoagulants



Other General Surgical Topics

Emergency Surgery Topics

- Trauma care
- Management and classification of shock
- Management and classification of hypoxia
- Management and classification of oliguria

Elective Surgery Topics

- Suture materials
- Informed consent
- World Health Organization (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist
- Common abdominal incisions
- Wound healing and wound management