



ADULT COMPLEX THYROID AND PARATHYROID SURGERY

FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATION EXAM BLUEPRINT

In 2023 and 2024, the American Board of Surgery (ABS) and the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) developed the blueprint that will be used as the basis for the examination for the Focused Practice Designation (FPD) in Adult Complex Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery. The blueprint was designed by an exam committee consisting of a diverse group of ABS- and ABOHNS-certified surgeons with expertise in adult complex thyroid and parathyroid surgery. Following the initial development of the blueprint draft, feedback was solicited from practicing thyroid and parathyroid surgeons as well as fellowship program directors. Informed by robust feedback obtained through this process, weights were refined to dictate how each topic area and secondary classification will be represented on the exam.

Content Distribution

Tables 1 and 2 include the major content categories and secondary classifications in the blueprint. Weights are also provided for each. Concretely, the weights indicate the approximate percentage of questions to be included on the FPD exam; actual percentages may vary slightly from year to year.

Content Categories

Table 1 includes the major content categories for the exam, which are separated into four sections: Anatomy and Physiology, Thyroid Diseases, Parathyroid Diseases, and Surgical Concepts.

Secondary Classifications

Table 2 includes the secondary classifications for exam items. All items will reflect both a content category and a secondary classification (e.g., a question about the pathology of follicular carcinoma).



TABLE 1 – CONTENT CATEGORIES

Content Category	Weight
1. Anatomy and Physiology	8.0%
1. Thyroid	4.3%
2. Parathyroid	3.7%
2. Thyroid Diseases	34.0%
1. General Concepts	7.5%
1. Thyroid nodule evaluation	--
2. Benign Disease	9.9%
1. Nontoxic multinodular goiter	--
2. Benign nontoxic thyroid nodules	--
3. Thyrotoxicosis with or without nodules (including Graves' disease)	--
4. Thyroiditis, other than Graves' disease	--
3. Malignant Disease	16.7%
1. Papillary carcinoma	--
2. Follicular carcinoma	--
3. Oncocytic cell carcinoma	--
4. Medullary carcinoma	--
5. Anaplastic/poorly differentiated carcinoma	--
6. Lymphoma	--
7. Metastases to the thyroid gland	--
3. Parathyroid Diseases	27.0%
1. General Concepts	8.1%
1. Hyperparathyroidism	--
2. Primary Hyperparathyroidism	13.5%
1. Adenoma	--
2. Hyperplasia	--
3. Carcinoma	--
3. Secondary Hyperparathyroidism	5.4%
1. Renal (secondary and tertiary)	--
2. Nonrenal, such as vitamin D deficiency	--

**Subtopic totals may not sum to content area totals due to rounding.*



TABLE 1 – CONTENT CATEGORIES (CONT'D)

Content Category	Weight
4. Surgical Concepts	31.0%
1. Thyroid	17.1%
1. Thyroidectomy – Primary surgery	--
2. Thyroidectomy – Reoperative surgery	
3. Neck dissection – Central and lateral	
2. Parathyroid	13.9%
1. Parathyroidectomy – Primary surgery	--
2. Parathyroidectomy – Reoperative surgery	--

**Subtopic totals may not sum to content area totals due to rounding.*

TABLE 2 – SECONDARY CLASSIFICATIONS

Secondary Classifications	Weight
1. Epidemiology	4%
2. Pathology	6%
3. Screening/Counseling for Genetic Syndromes	4%
4. Diagnostic Workup	10%
5. Imaging	10%
6. Preoperative evaluation	9%
7. Preoperative Care/Medical Care	9%
8. Intraoperative Management	20%
9. Functional and Cosmetic Optimization	1%
10. Adjuvant Therapy/Postoperative Care and Complications	12%
11. Surveillance/Follow-Up	7%
12. Quality and Outcomes	3%
13. Rehabilitation	1%
14. Palliation/Pain Therapy	1%
15. Health Equity/Disparities	3%

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