



ABOS Surgery of the Spine Recertification Examination Blueprint

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General Principles	1-5%
Biostatistics/epidemiology	1-2%
Basic Science Principles	1-3%
Spine	78-82%
Cervical	31-35%
Thoracic	11-14%
Lumbar	18-24%
Nonspecific site	13-17%
Upper Extremities	1-4%
Scapula	1-2%
Shoulder joint	0.5-1%
Lower Extremities	0.5-1%
Other/Multiple sites	0.5-1%
Multiple Sites	4-8%
Complications following surgical procedures	3-6%
Arthritis/rheumatologic disease	1-2%
Other	0.5-1%
Neoplasms	6-10%
Benign	1-4%
Malignant	3-7%
Other	0.5-1%

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<i>General Principles</i>	<i>1-5%</i>
Biostatistics/epidemiology	1-2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation of Epidemiologic Information• Study Design and Interpretation• Hypothesis Testing and Statistical Interference	
Basic Science Principles	1-3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Biomechanics	

Spine	78-82%
Cervical	31-35%
Cervical 1-3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fracture/dislocation/instability• Spinal Cord Injury Syndromes• Herniated Nucleus Pulposus• Arthritis, inflammatory (Rheumatoid)• Arthritis, degenerative• Torticollis (acquired, congenital)• Congenital anomalies (eg, Klippel-Feil syndrome)• Spine, cervical 1-3, spondylolisthesis (nondegenerative)• Spine, cervical 1-3, radiculopathy	
Cervical 4-7	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fracture/dislocation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Without spinal cord injury• With spinal cord injury• Spinal cord injury syndromes• Herniated Nucleus Pulposus• Arthritis, inflammatory• Arthritis, degenerative• Torticollis (acquired, congenital)	
Thoracic	11-14%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoracolumbar• Fracture/dislocation/instability• Spinal Cord Injury Syndromes• Herniated Nucleus Pulposus• Arthritis, inflammatory (Rheumatoid)• Arthritis, degenerative• Kyphosis/lordosis• Congenital anomalies	

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(continued)

Lumbar

18-24%

- Fracture/dislocation/instability
- Spinal Cord Injury Syndromes
- Herniated Nucleus Pulposus
- Arthritis, inflammatory (Rheumatoid)
- Arthritis, degenerative
- Congenital anomalies

Nonspecific site

13-17%

- Spinal cord injury not elsewhere classified
- Infection
- Scoliosis not elsewhere classified
- Disseminated idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis
- Spondylitis, ankylosing
- Reiter syndrome
- Postoperative flat back syndrome

Upper Extremities	1-4%
Scapula	1-2%
• Neuropathy/nerve injury	
Shoulder joint	0.5-1%
• Dislocations/Instability	
• Fracture	
• Arthritis, inflammatory	
• Arthritis, degenerative	
• Tendinitis	
• Tears	
• Labral Injuries	
• Articular Injuries	
• Osteonecrosis	
• Nerve injury/compression	
• Infection	

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(continued)

<i>Lower Extremities</i>	<i>0.5-1%</i>
<i>Other/multiple sites</i>	<i>0.5-1%</i>

- Neuromuscular disease

Multiple Sites	4-8%
Complications following surgical procedures	3-6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thromboembolus• Deep venous thrombosis• Coagulopathy	
Arthritis/rheumatologic disease	1-2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rheumatoid• Septic	
Other	0.5-1%

Neoplasms	6-10%
Benign	1-4%
Malignant	3-7%
Other	0.5-1%