



COMAT-SURGERY

Content Outline and Assessment Objectives

The **COMAT-Surgery** examination is designed for end-of-course assessment or end-of-clinical rotation/ clerkship assessment for students enrolled at a college of osteopathic medicine. This examination emphasizes core knowledge and elements of osteopathic principles and practice that are essential at the advanced beginner level (osteopathic medical student) for the discipline of **Surgery**.

General Learner-Centered Objectives

Based on general learner-centered objectives, as outlined in the **COMAT-Surgery** Examination Blueprint (<http://www.nbome.org/docs/COMAT-Surgery.pdf>), the examinee will be required to demonstrate the ability to apply:

- 1) Foundational content knowledge to situations and patient presentations encountered in clinical settings and important in **Surgery**.
- 2) Foundational content knowledge and clinical problem-solving ability as related to particular physician tasks critical to **Surgery**.
- 3) Knowledge and clinical problem-solving as related to the *Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains*, including osteopathic principles and practice and OMT, osteopathic medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning and improvement, systems-based practice, professionalism and patient care. ([http://www.nbome.org/docs/NBOME Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Compencies.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/NBOME_Fundamental_Osteopathic_Medical_Compencies.pdf))
- 4) Osteopathic principles and practice in commonly encountered patient care scenarios.

Selected Specific Objectives for COMAT-Surgery

For **COMAT-Surgery**, the examinee will be required to demonstrate the ability to diagnose and manage selected patient presentations and clinical situations involving, but not limited to:

- 1) **Fluids**: shock, fluid and electrolytes, surgical nutrition, coagulation and blood
- 2) **Wounds and infections**: skin and subcutaneous tissues, immunology and transplantation
- 3) **Gastrointestinal and related issues**: esophagus, diaphragm, stomach, duodenum, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, appendix, hernias
- 4) **Hepatobiliary and related issues**: pancreas, biliary tract, liver and spleen
- 5) **Trauma**: chest tubes and other issues in general trauma care
- 6) **General surgical issues in urology, gynecology, and pediatrics**
- 7) **Endocrine and breast and related issues**: thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, pancreas, pituitary and other glands; surgical issues of the breasts
- 8) **Surgical oncology and surgical pathology**
- 9) **Osteopathic principles and practice in surgical care**: somatic dysfunction, viscerosomatic relationships and osteopathic manipulative treatment techniques

(Continued on page 2)



Selected Student and Faculty Learning Resources for COMAT-Surgery

In addition to the aforementioned objectives, examples of supplementary resources used by the NBOME to inform the development of the **COMAT-Surgery** examination are listed below:

- 1) Manual of Surgical Objectives, 4th Edition: (<http://data.memberclicks.com/site/ase/surgical/objectivesmanual4.pdf>)
- 2) Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles: (<http://www.aacom.org/people/councils/Pages/ECOP.aspx>)
- 3) Course and Clerkship Objectives as Outlined by each College of Osteopathic Medicine: (<http://www.aacom.org/people/colleges/Pages/default.aspx>)
- 4) Basic Standards for Residency Training in Surgery: (<http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/accreditation/postdoctoral-training-approval/postdoctoral-training-standards/Pages/surgery.aspx>)

Sample **COMAT-Surgery** examination items will soon be available on the NBOME's website. Although not expressly designed for or intended to prepare examinees for COMAT examinations, sample COMLEX-USA test items are available at (<http://www.nbome.org/intro/index.html>), and the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination (COMSAE) Phase 2 is available at (<http://www.nbome.org/comsae.asp?m=can>).

A select number of resources related to the discipline of **Surgery** are as follows:

Essentials of Surgery	Lawrence	4 th Edition	2005
Sabiston Textbook of Surgery	Townsend	18 th Edition	2008
Schwartz's Principles of Surgery	Brunnicardi	9 th Edition	2009
UpToDate	Inc	Version 18.3	2011
An Osteopathic Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment	DiGiovanna	3 rd Edition	2004
Foundations for Osteopathic Medicine	AOA	3 rd Edition	2010

NBOME COMAT Committees

Membership of the **COMAT-Surgery** committee was formulated by the NBOME with input provided by board-certified specialty experts in **Surgery** from across the nation. This team consists of department chairs, clerkship/clinical rotation directors, and faculty members from colleges of osteopathic medicine, as well as representatives from graduate medical education (residency) programs and private clinical practice.