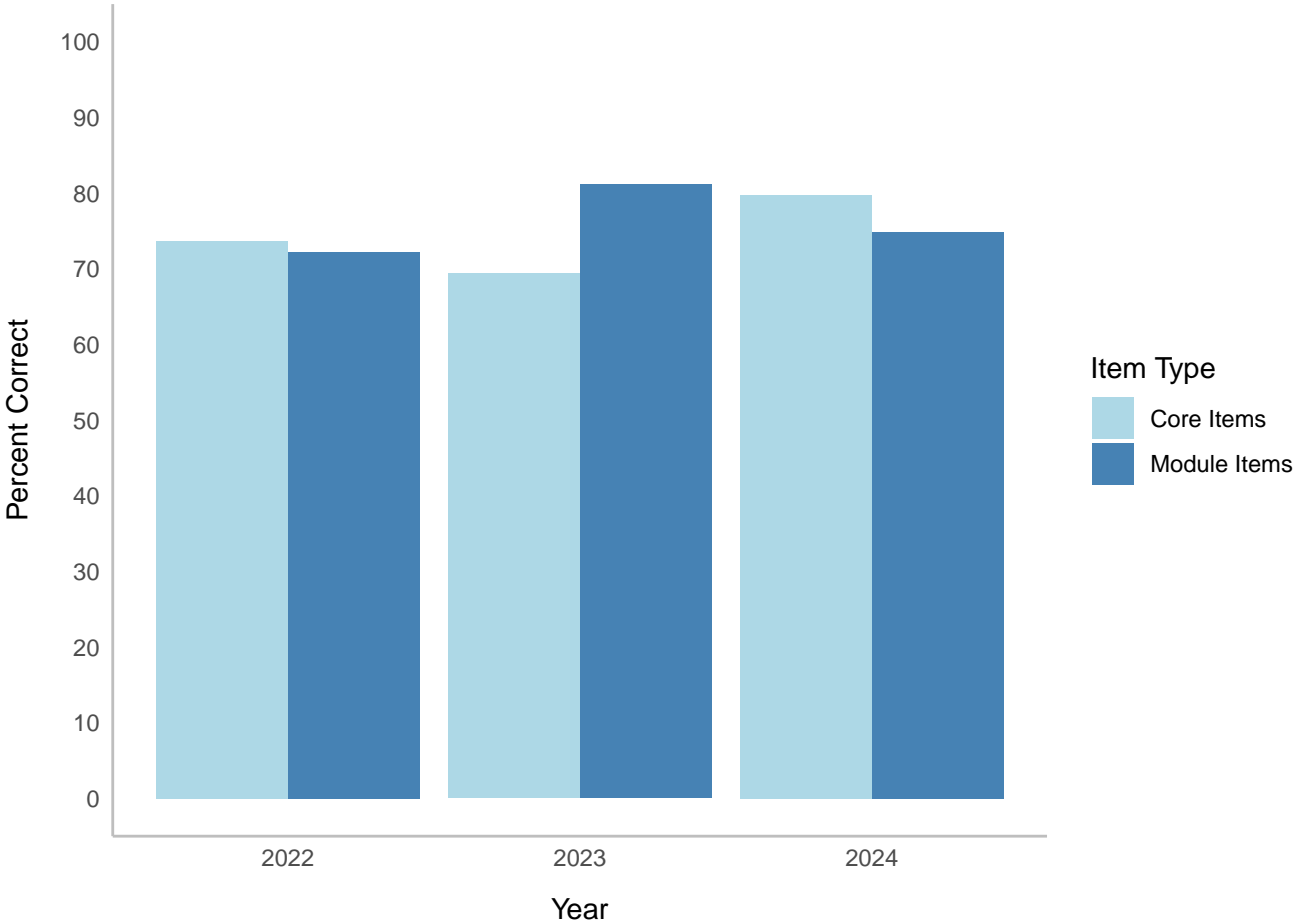# American Board of Surgery
2024 Continuous Certification Knowledge Gaps Report
General Surgery

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of specialty-specific knowledge gaps identified through diplomate performance on the American Board of Surgery General Surgery Continuous Certification Assessment (CCA). The CCA contains 40 items developed using references from an ABS partner journal or open-access article, and diplomates have up to two attempts to answer each item. A first attempt score of 40% is required to receive a second attempt, and a score of 80% correct is required to pass the assessment. The figures below present data on first-attempt exam performance over the past three years, including average percent correct values, keywords for items with lower diplomate performance, and item reference links.

The General Surgery CCA is stuctured in a modular format, with 20 items on core surgical principles (Core items) and 20 items on a practice-related area of the diplomate's choosing (Module items).

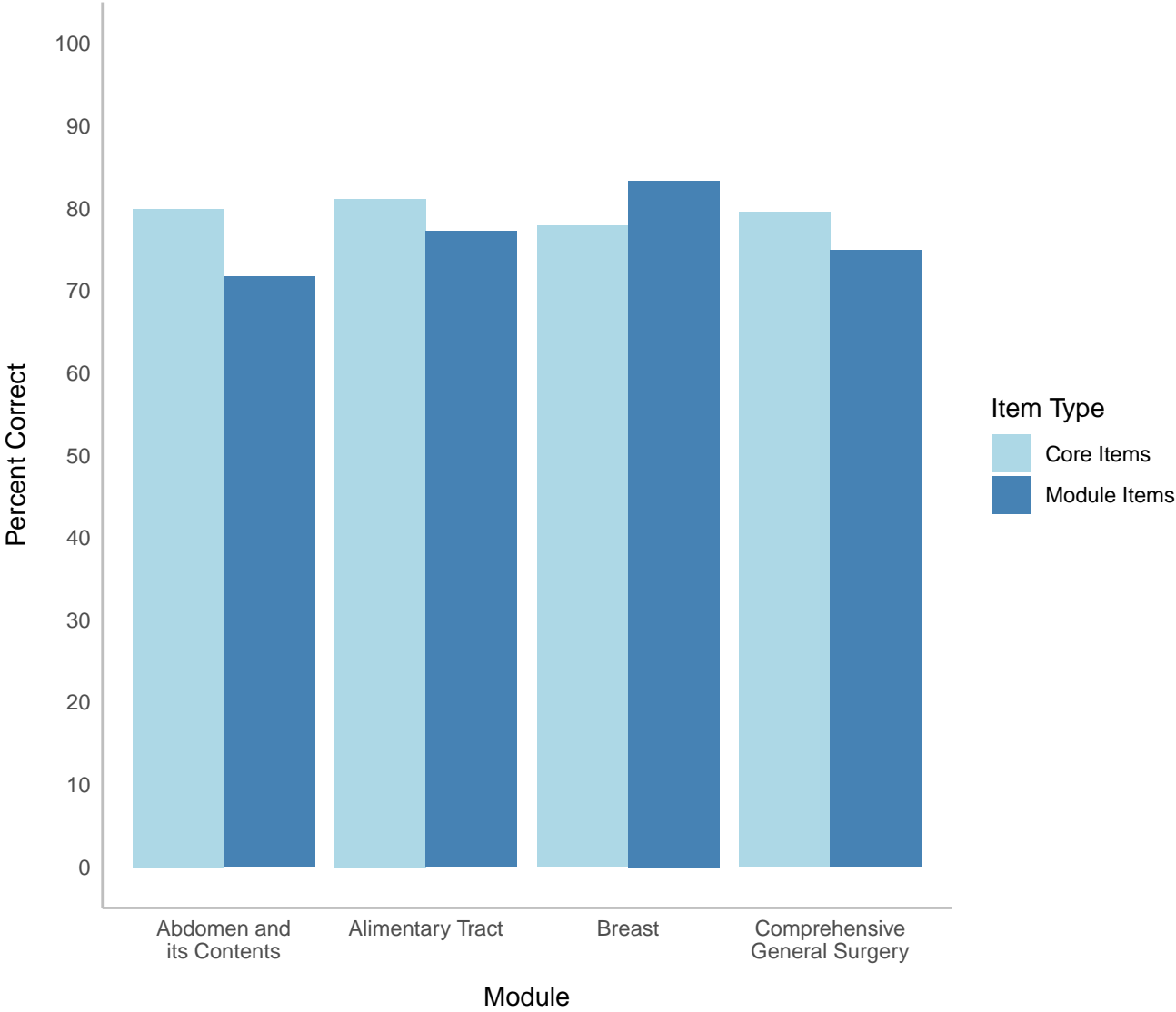2024 General Surgery Continuous Certification Assessment

First Attempt Percent Correct by Year

Note: Percent correct may not necessarily be a reflection of better or worse performance by diplomates and may reflect variation in the difficulty of the items when making comparisons across years.

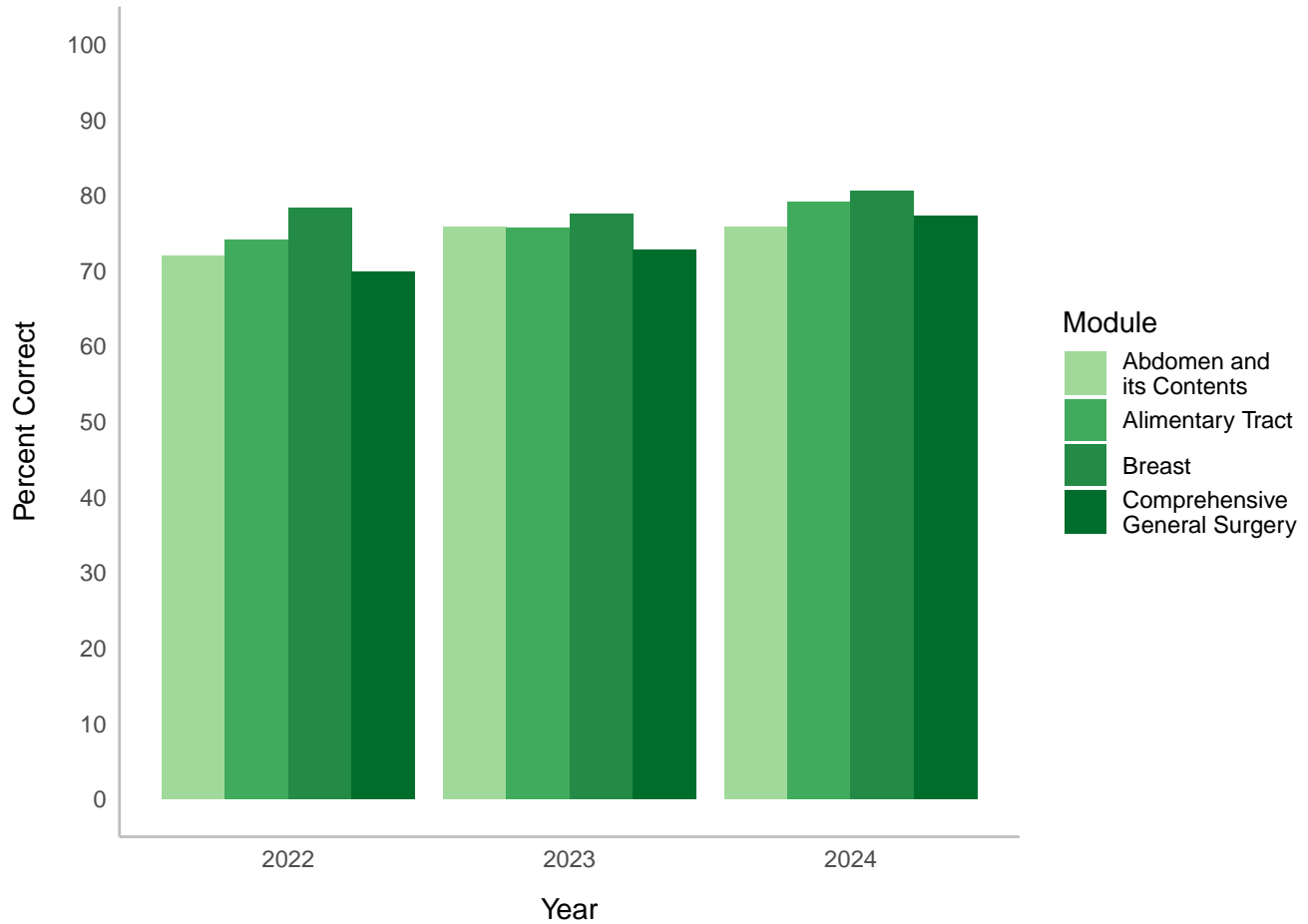2024 General Surgery Continuous Certification Assessment

First Attempt Percent Correct by Module - 2024

Note: Percent correct may not necessarily be a reflection of better or worse performance by diplomates and may reflect variation in the difficulty of the items when making comparisons across modules.

First Attempt Percent Correct for All Items by Module

Note: Percent correct may not necessarily be a reflection of better or worse performance by diplomates and may reflect variation in the difficulty of the items when making comparisons across years and modules.

2024 General Surgery Continuous Certification Assessment
Topic Areas for Improvement/Knowledge Reinforcement

The table below includes keywords for items that had lower diplomate performance. Some items may appear on multiple Modules, and the items below had lower performance on one or more Modules (indicated with an X). In addition to the keywords, PubMed IDs and/or links for the key reference for each item are included.

Year	Keywords	Reference	Abdomen and its Contents	Alimentary Tract	Breast	Comprehensive General Surgery
2022	Diseases/Conditions - Core	29287123	X	X	X	X
2022	Infection and Antimicrobial Therapy	32644129	X	-	-	X
2022	Cholecystectomy with or without Cholangiography	18266047	X	-	-	-
2022	Magnesium and Phosphorous Disorders	18583681	X	X	X	X
2022	Peritoneal Neoplasms - Carcinomatosis	28796726	X	-	-	-
2022	Advanced Directives, DNR Orders, and Power of Attorney	31446914	X	X	X	X
2022	Peptic Ulcer Disease	33317793	-	X	-	-
2022	Small Intestinal Obstruction	27247532	-	X	-	-
2022	Esophageal Caustic Ingestion and Foreign Bodies	31164915	-	X	-	-
2022	Melanoma and Nevi	32482317	-	-	-	X
2022	Pancreatic and Duodenal Injury	26670105	-	-	-	X
2022	Extremity Fractures and Traumatic Amputations	22310120	-	-	-	X
2023	Perioperative Management of the Patient on Corticosteroids	25208109	X	X	X	X
2023	Goal Setting With Elderly Patients and Families	35641700	X	-	X	-
2023	Perioperative Management of the Therapeutically Anticoagulated Patient	32505262	X	X	X	X
2023	Levels of Evidence	18467413	X	X	X	X
2023	Peptic Ulcer Disease	17212889	-	X	-	-
2023	Colonoscopy	Reference	-	-	-	X
2023	Vena Cava Filter - Insertion	32919823	-	-	-	X
2024	Diaphragmatic Hernia - Repair	29613959	X	-	-	-
2024	Common Bile Duct Exploration - Laparoscopic	29847616	X	-	-	-
2024	Preoperative Assessment and Management of Coexisting Infection (HIV, Hepatitis)	29878949	X	X	X	X
2024	Intra-abdominal Abscess - Drainage	32381121	X	-	-	-
2024	Central Venous Catheter Placement	28844205	-	-	-	X
2024	Small Intestinal Adenocarcinoma	37433437	-	-	-	X

X indicates the item had lower performance.

- indicates that the item did not have low performance in this Module or did not appear in this Module.