



**THE AMERICAN  
BOARD OF SURGERY**

**AMERICAN BOARD OF  
OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD  
AND NECK SURGERY**



## **ADULT COMPLEX THYROID AND PARATHYROID SURGERY**

### ***FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATION EXAM BLUEPRINT***

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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**

<b>Content Category</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>1. Anatomy and Physiology</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
1. Thyroid	4.3%
2. Parathyroid	3.7%
<b>2. Thyroid Diseases</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
1. General Concepts	7.5%
1. Thyroid nodule evaluation	--
<b>2. Benign Disease</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
1. Nontoxic multinodular goiter	--
2. Benign nontoxic thyroid nodules	--
3. Thyrotoxicosis with or without nodules (including Graves' disease)	--
4. Thyroiditis, other than Graves' disease	--
<b>3. Malignant Disease</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
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	--
<b>3. Parathyroid Diseases</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
1. General Concepts	8.1%
1. Hyperparathyroidism	--
<b>2. Primary Hyperparathyroidism</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
1. Adenoma	--
2. Hyperplasia	--
3. Carcinoma	--
<b>3. Secondary Hyperparathyroidism</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
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)**

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

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

**TABLE 2 – SECONDARY CLASSIFICATIONS**

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

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