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978-1-107-62736-9 - Postgraduate Orthopaedics: Viva Guide for the FRCS (Tr & Orth) Examination

Edited by Paul A. Banaszkiwicz

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# Postgraduate Orthopaedics: Viva Guide for the FRCS (Tr & Orth) Examination

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## Foreword

Exam success depends as much upon technique as it does upon knowledge. In this respect *Postgraduate Orthopaedics: Viva Guide for the FRCS (Tr & Orth) Examination* is a logical and, no doubt will become, a most welcome addition to the highly successful text, *Postgraduate Orthopaedics*. Its strength relies on the first-hand experience of surgeons who have recently sat and successfully passed the FRCS (Tr & Orth) examination. Each chapter has a totally different feel, in part due to the topics covered, but more importantly to the style with which each of the viva scenarios has been written. This eclectic approach keeps the text refreshing and also reflects the personal experiences of candidates undergoing the stress of this examination; sentiments that a heavily edited text would have lost.

I also like the first chapter that attempts to remove much of the mystique from the viva process and helps candidates to benchmark just what is expected of them to pass this examination.

I only wish that texts like this had been available in my day since so many of us struggled to come to terms with what the exam was all about and made the mistake of thinking that pure knowledge of orthopaedics was the key to success: if only!

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## Preface

This book has been written specifically to guide candidates better through the FRCS (Trauma and Orthopaedic) viva exam or structured oral examination, as the Intercollegiate Specialty Board (ISB) prefers to call it.

The oral exam is regarded by many as a poor relative of the clinicals; the intermediate and short cases being the most difficult part of the exam to pass and the section most candidates tend to fail.

Despite this the oral part of the exam should not be underestimated. The often-heard mutterings that the orals are fairly straightforward to pass can lull candidates into a false sense of security.

Candidates with good core knowledge may still end up failing one or more oral sections if technique is poor.

The book takes the form of the major four oral sections of the examination, namely adult elective orthopaedics, trauma, hand and upper limb/children's orthopaedics and applied basic science. There is an introduction section on general guidance and a chapter dealing with common diagrams that you may be asked to draw out in the examinations.

We have tried to pitch the oral dialogue at the standard of a good to outstanding pass believing that more is better than less. By way of comparison we occasionally include a poor substandard answer from a candidate. More often you learn more from the viva answers that go wrong than from questions that don't challenge you.

Each chapter has a slightly different style reflecting differing authors' focus and opinions regarding the keys for success in the examination. We think this makes the book more interesting and believe this approach is more challenging as it forces you to think a bit more for yourself and will help you to define and refine your viva tactics.

For better or worse we have continued to use examiner/candidates discussion in the oral sections. Even more so with the viva, it is the back-and-forth dialogue between examiner and candidate that candidates need to focus on.

Finally we wish you well in the examination and hope that this book will provide you with invaluable tactics and tips for success in the oral section of the FRCS (Tr & Orth) exam.