Q writing Workshop

Barcelona, December 2018
What are you testing

• Wide range of COMMON disorders as set out in curriculum

• Ability to process

• Ability to form a differential

• Ability to apply medical knowledge
General Rules

• Each Q has a few lines / paragraphs of text

• List of 5 options

• Of 5 options, 1 is correct and 4 good distractors

• Remember that average time is 1-2 minutes / question

• Not all candidates are speed readers
Each Q starts with a STEM

• Clinical presentation
• Always in past tense
• Relevant information
• Short words and short sentences
• No jargon
• No abbreviation
• No eponymous terms
STEM

- Paragraph 1: Clinical scenario:
  - 5 sentences, 6 lines text
  - Max 200 – 300 word

- Paragraph 2: Clinical exam

- Paragraph 3: Investigations & data
  - < 6 items
  - Max 200 words
  - Use images only if helpful in interpreting question
STEM : Clinical scenario

• Age and sex of patient (male / female )
• Race & occupation ( if relevant)
• Clinical Setting ( Outpatients* , Emergency room* etc)
• Presenting complaint
• Relevant medical and family history
• Relevant drug treatment (GENERIC)
Presenting Physical Findings in Order

- Temperature
- Pulse
- BP
- JVP
- Respiratory Rate
Asking the Q

• NO NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

• What is the least likely
• What medication should he avoid
• What should not be done
Setting the Questions

- Keep them short
- Keep them simple
- Similar length for each answer
- Alphabetical order
- Make sure relevant to the stem
- Avoid misleading Qs
• A 55 year old man is admitted with general malaise. He has recently been diagnosed with multiple myeloma. His serum calcium is 3.1 (2.1-2.6).

• What is the next best test?
  • 1. Ionized calcium
  • 2. PTH
  • 3. PTHrp
  • 4. 25-OHD
  • 5. 1,25-OHD
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1. Ionized calcium
2. PTH
3. PTHrp
4. Serum 25-OHD
5. 1,25-OHD

A 55 year old male was admitted to the hospital with general malaise and has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

His serum calcium is 3.1 (2.1-2.6).

What is the most appropriate test?
1. Ionized calcium
2. PTH
3. PTHrp
4. Serum 25-OH Cholecalciferol
5. Serum 1-25 OH Cholecalciferol