

# 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 LEAD IN
- 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

# Sample

- 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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- 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