

FRANZCOG Oral Examination October 2017



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists
Excellence in Women's Health

Examination Summary

The Structured Oral Examination (SOE) consists of 10 stations covering some of the range of clinical practice in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Each station in the October 2017 examination was scored out of 20. The pass mark for the examination is calculated as the sum of the minimum acceptable pass marks for each of the 10 stations. There are no critical stations or encounters. It is possible to fail one, or more, individual stations and still pass the examination with a strong performance in other stations.

Station 1 - Chromosomal Translocation - Communication Skills Station (this station involved a Standardised Patient)

In this station, the patient has had a previous pregnancy loss due to fetal trisomy. Subsequent testing showed that the patient also carries a balanced translocation. She presents at 9 weeks gestation and is very anxious about the pregnancy. The candidate was expected to develop a rapport with the patient, listen carefully to her concerns and explain options for testing, screening and management.

Station 2 - Obstetric Prioritisation

The candidate was expected to identify the key points, prioritise and appropriately delegate the care of several patients on the labour ward, antenatal and postnatal ward. Specific management of one particular patient with postnatal sepsis was then required.

Station 3 - Obesity in Pregnancy

A morbidly obese woman with hypertension was referred for antenatal care and confinement. The candidate was expected to outline key management points for the antenatal care, a subsequent Caesarean section and management of a burst abdomen.

Station 4 Splenic Artery Aneurysm

The candidate was expected to manage a patient presenting at 36 weeks gestation with left upper quadrant abdominal pain. Resuscitation was required, a differential diagnosis had to be considered, and a splenic artery aneurysm was subsequently diagnosed.

Station 5 – Contraception

A 40 year old attended for contraceptive advice. The candidate was expected to discuss options appropriate for her particular situation. Detailed consent for LNG-IUS insertion was required followed by management of an extra-uterine abdominal IUD

Station 6 - Pelvic Mass and Urinary Symptoms

The candidate was expected to manage a 47 year old woman with a large pelvic mass and pressure symptoms. A hysterectomy was performed for large fibroids and the histology confirmed a leiomyosarcoma.

Station 7 - Asthma and Influenza in Pregnancy

A 32 year old woman presented at 14 weeks and required antenatal management of her asthma and poor social situation. She subsequently presented at 28 weeks with a fever and respiratory tract infection. Swabs were positive for influenza A.

Station 8 - Vaginal Cancer - Communication Skills Station (this station involved a Standardised Patient).

A 42 year old nulliparous woman is diagnosed with asymptomatic vaginal skin lesions. Biopsy confirmed squamous carcinoma. The candidate was expected to provide an explanation of the diagnosis and management plan in an appropriate and empathetic manner.

Station 9 - Pelvic pain and heterotopic ectopic pregnancy

The candidate was expected to manage a 26 year old with chronic pelvic pain. She subsequently presented with a cornual heterotopic ectopic pregnancy and appropriate management was required.

Station 10 - Hysteroscopy and Polypectomy

The candidate was expected to manage a 37 year old with heavy periods and an endometrial polyp. This was a practical station and hysteroscopic equipment was provided. The candidate was expected to explain and demonstrate the key principles of hysteroscopy and manage the complications of a uterine perforation.