



*ABOS Surgery of the Hand
Subspecialty Examination,
Surgery of the Hand
Combined Examination,
and Surgery of the Hand
Practice Profiled Examination
Blueprint*

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ABOS Surgery of the Hand Examination Blueprint

Table of Contents

General Principles/Basic Science	12-16%
Biostatistics/epidemiology	1-3%
Diagnostic Principles	1-3%
Legal/Ethical	2-5%
Basic Science Principles	6-10%
Trauma	50-56%
Acute	33-39%
Subacute/Chronic/Reconstructive	14-18%
Degenerative and Chronic	8-14%
Musculoskeletal	
Neuromuscular	
Soft tissue contractures	
Vascular insufficiency (Buerger disease)	
Inflammatory	3-6%
Immune mediated	
Crystalline arthritides	
Calcific tendinitis/bursitis	
Particulate synovitis	
Infections - Acute and Chronic, Bone and Joint, Soft Tissue	2-5%
Principles of management	
Bacterial (specify location)	
Mycobacterial/fungal	
Viral	
Other: Lyme disease	
Neoplastic	3-7%
Benign - primary	
Non-neoplastic masses	
Malignant - primary	
Metabolic	1-2%
Generalized	
Musculoskeletal	
Congenital/Developmental Anomaly/Deformity	3-7%
Musculoskeletal	

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Table of Contents

Complications

1-2%

DVT and Pulmonary embolism

Coagulopathy

Prosthetic complications, mechanical failure

Nerve injury

Tendon injury

General

1-3%

Psychiatric

Complex regional pain syndrome

Factitious disorders

Raynaud disease

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General Principles/Basic Science	12-16%
Biostatistics/epidemiology	1-3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation of epidemiologic information• Disease prevalence and incidence• Disease outcomes (e.g., fatality rates)• Associations (e.g., risk factors)• Health impact (e.g. risk differences and ratios)• Sensitivity, specificity, predictive values• Study design and interpretation• Types of experimental studies (e.g., clinical trials)• Types of observational studies (e.g., cohort, case-control, cross-sectional, case series)• Hypothesis testing and statistical inference• Confidence intervals• Statistical significance and type I (alpha) error• Statistical power and type II (beta) error	
Diagnostic Principles	1-3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radiographs• CT scan• MRI• Angriography• EMG/NCV• Other studies	
Legal/Ethical	2-5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent and informed consent to treatment (e.g., full disclosure, alternate therapies, risks)• Physician-patient relationship (eg, truth telling, confidentiality, privacy, autonomy, public reprt)• Death and dying (end of life issues, life support, living wills, durable power of attorney)• Research issues (consent, placebos, conflict of interest, vulnerable populations)• Interactions with other health professionals• Cultural competence• Child abuse	

Basic Science Principles	6-10%
• Anatomy	4-6%
• Biology and physiology	1-2%
• Wound healing	
• Nerve physiology	
• Muscle physiology	
• Biomechanics	0.5-1%
• Pharmacotherapy and indications	0.5-1%

Trauma		50-56%
Acute		33-39%
• Skeletal		11-15%
• Fractures		5-9%
• Dislocations		2-5%
• Fracture/dislocations		2-4%
• Growth plate/physeal injury		0.5-1.5%
• Intra-articular cartilage injury		1-2%
• TFCC		1-2%
• Soft tissue		12-17%
• Ligament injury	}	2-5%
• Rotator cuff tear, traumatic		
• Biceps tendon		
• Flexor tendons		2-5%
• Flexor zone 1		
• Flexor zone 2		
• Flexor zone 3		
• Flexor zone 4		
• Flexor zone 5		
• Extensor tendons	}	2-4%
• Finger laceration		
• Hand laceration		
• Wrist laceration		
• Forearm laceration		
• Mallet finger		
• Central slip disruption		
• Bursitis (olecranon)	}	1-2%
• Wound, simple, with or without foreign body		
• Wound, complex		
• Nailbed/fingertip injury		
• Thermal injury		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flame burns • Frostbite • Electrical burns 	}		2-4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical injury, including chemotherapeutic IV infiltration • Bites, stings, envenomation (snakebite) • Pressure injection injury 			0.5-1.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurologic injury • Brachial plexus injury (including thoracic outlet syndrome, burners/ stingers) • Peripheral nerve • Vascular • Laceration • Puncture wound • Amputation, including prosthetic care and replantation • Polytrauma • Polytrauma patient • Mutilating arm injury 			5-9%

Subacute/Chronic/Reconstructive	14-18%
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skeletal • Nonunion • Malunion 			2-5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ligament instability 			1-3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft tissue • Tendon • Tenolysis • Staged tendon reconstruction 	}		4-8%
			2-4%

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tendinitis and tendinopathies• Lateral epicondylitis• Medial epicondylitis• DeQuervain syndrome• Intersection syndrome• Extensor tendinitis (ECU, etc)• Flexor tendinitis• Rupture• Imbalance deformity• TFCC (ulnar impaction syndrome)	}.....	2-4%
• Heterotopic ossification		0.5-1.5%
• Nerve		4-8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compressive neuropathy• Carpal tunnel• Guyon tunnel• Cubital tunnel• Radial tunnel• Nerve root, radiculopathy		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compartment syndrome• Ischemic contracture• Osteonecrosis (specify location)• Chronic lymphatic insufficiencies	}.....	1-2%

Degenerative and Chronic

8-14%

Musculoskeletal

- Stenosis
- Intravertebral disc disease
- Spondylolisthesis
- Osteoarthritis

Neuromuscular

- Spastic conditions
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Paralytic conditions
- Parsonage-Turner syndrome/Acute brachial neuritis

Soft tissue contractures

- Contractures, post traumatic
- Dupuytren contracture
- Volkmann contracture
- Intrinsic contractures (hand)
- Skin, scars, including burns

Vascular insufficiency (Buerger disease)

Inflammatory

3-6%

Immune mediated

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Collagen vascular disease
- Scleroderma
- Lupus erythematosus
- Spondyloarthritides (ankylosing spondylitis, Reiter)

Crystalline arthritides

- Gout
- Calcium pyrophosphate disease

Calcific tendinitis/bursitis

Particulate synovitis

***Infections - Acute and Chronic,
Bone and Joint, Soft Tissue***

2-5%

Principles of management

Bacterial (specify location)

- Osteomyelitis
- Septic arthritis
- Human bite wounds
- Other bites (insect, animal, snake, etc.)
- Discitis
- Complex infection (necrotizing fasciitis, synergistic infections, etc.)
- Postoperative

Mycobacterial/fungal

Viral

- Poliomyelitis
- HIV/AIDS

Other: Lyme disease

Neoplastic

3-7%

Benign - primary

- Skeletal
- Osteochondromatosis
- Enchondroma
- Aneurysmal bone cyst
- Unicameral bone cyst
- Soft tissue
- Synovial osteochondromatosis
- Nerve
- Fibroma
- Glomus
- Pigmented villonodular synovitis (giant cell tumor, tendon sheath or joint)
- Other

Non-neoplastic masses

- Ganglions
- Foreign body reaction
- Epidermoid inclusion cysts
- Aneurysms, vascular malformations
- Other

Malignant - primary

- Skeletal
- Giant cell tumor
- Soft tissue
- Metastatic

Metabolic

1-2%

Generalized

- Diabetes mellitus and related conditions
- Gout
- Deposition diseases
- Mucopolysaccharidoses
- Gaucher disease

Musculoskeletal

- Mineral metabolism
- Osteoporosis
- Osteomalacia
- Rickets

Congenital/Developmental Anomaly/Deformity**3-7%****Musculoskeletal**

- Congenital anomalies, including congenital scoliosis
- Spina bifida, tethered cord
- Aberrant bones, e.g., os acromiale, bipartite patella, etc.
- Aberrant segmentation
- Coalitions, e.g., tarsal, carpal, synostoses
- Polydactyly
- Syndactyly
- Deficiencies - specify segment
- Radial dysplasia
- Ulnar dysplasia
- Fibular hemimelia
- Tibial hemimelia
- Symbrachydactyly
- Congenital amputations
- Amnion disruption sequence
- Congenital deformations
- Developmental hip dysplasia
- Talipes equinovarus
- Acquired deformity
- Localized
- Torticollis
- Congenital pseudarthrosis
- Idiopathic scoliosis
- Neuromuscular scoliosis
- Spondylosis/spondylolisthesis, pars defect
- Scheuermann kyphosis
- Madelung deformity
- Syndromic and genetic conditions
- Contractural conditions including all forms of arthrogyrosis

- Diastrophic dysplasia
- Multiple hereditary osteochondromatosis
- Achondroplasia
- Larson syndrome
- VATER association
- Marfan syndrome
- Osteogenesis imperfecta
- Apert syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Hyperostosis, disseminated idiopathic
- Epidermolysis bullosa

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<i>General</i>	<i>1-3%</i>
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