

BOOK REVIEW**Master Pass: EMQs in Obstetrics and Gynaecology***Andrea Akkad, Marwan Habiba, Justin Konje*

Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2006. ISBN: 1-84619-031-2

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Undergraduate medical education in the UK has moved away from mass ritual lectures to topic and themed based self directed learning. While this encourages the student to learn independently it frequently proves difficult for them to assess if they have covered the topic adequately and fully understood the principles. The Extended Matched Question (EMQ) is an educational tool that has been developed to evaluate both of these concerns and is now being introduced for student assessment.

A team of clinicians actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education has written "EMQs in Obstetrics and Gynaecology". The aim of the book is "to help medical students prepare for in-course assessment in obstetrics and gynaecology and final exams". The 16 chapters of questions, 6 in obstetrics and 10 in gynaecology, cover a broad range of topics. The authors have chosen their chapter topics well, focusing on the commonly encountered aspects of the specialty. The obstetric chapters deal with maternal and fetal problems comprehensively, with importance placed on normal pregnancy physiology in addition to complications of pregnancy such as hypertension and the mother who is ill. The gynaecological chapters are extensive, with problems

such as menstrual disorders, infertility, screening and family planning highlighted in particular. The lead-in questions for each topic are clear in their instruction and the patient vignettes are varied and clinically relevant, testing both the student's factual knowledge and their ability to apply that knowledge to clinical scenarios. While the clinical scenarios at times are almost too "text-book" in their presentation, they ensure that there is little dubiety regarding the correct answer. The answer section for each chapter gives a brief but pertinent explanation for each solution offered, directing the student to explore the area in more depth if they so wish.

As a test of factual knowledge and understanding in the common areas of obstetrics and gynaecology this book certainly achieves its goal and it to be commended. However, from the recent experience of undergraduate students in our own unit the breadth of knowledge tested in this book far exceeds the level achieved by most of our current students. Hopefully this book, if used during clinical attachments, will direct students in their studies and ensure they have achieved a competent level of knowledge in the specialty.

RCPSG DIARY OF EVENTS

February 2007 - May 2007

01.02.07	Paediatric Supper Colloquium at Reid Macewen Conference Centre, Erskine
01.02.07 & 02.02.07	Hot topics in Endocrinology & Metabolism and the Finlayson & Fleming Lectures
21.02.07	Surgical Anastomosis Techniques
05.03.07 & 06.03.07	IMPACT Course
14.03.07	Spring Ophthalmology Symposium
16.03.07	The 2nd Glasgow International Cardiology Symposium
22.03.07	Joint Symposium with the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK), West of Scotland Division "Don't bite off more than you can chew: Occlusion for Clinicians"
23.03.07	1st Annual Symposium on Podiatric Medicine
28.03.07 - 30.03.07	Basic Surgical Skills Course
30.03.07	ENT Symposium - Dilemmas in Thyroid Cancer Management
17.04.07 & 18.04.07	IMPACT Course
19.04.07	"The Many Guises of Oral Pathology: Reflections & the Future" Symposium in honour of Professor D.Gordon MacDonald
20.04.07	High Dependency for the Less Intense (Medical Update symposium)