

INTERNATIONAL GYNECOLOGIC CYTOLOGIST, CTgyn(ASCPⁱ) EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

EXAMINATION MODEL

The CTgyn(ASCPⁱ) certification examination is composed of 50 examination questions given in a 1 hour 30 minute time frame. All exam questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The certification exam is administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT).

With CAT, when a person answers a question correctly, the next test question has a slightly higher level of difficulty. The difficulty level of the questions presented to the examinee continues to increase until a question is answered incorrectly. Then a slightly easier question is presented. In this way, the test is tailored to the individual's ability level.

Each question in the test bank is calibrated for level of difficulty and is classified by content area. The content area aligns with the examination specific content outline. The examinee must answer enough questions correctly to achieve a measure above the pass point in order to successfully pass the certification examination. There is no set number of questions one must answer to pass, nor is there a set percentage one must achieve to pass. If at the end of the exam the examinee's score is above the pass point, then he or she passes the exam.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AREAS

The CTgyn(ASCPⁱ) exam questions encompass the following content areas within the area of Gynecological Cytology: Anatomy, Physiology, and Embryologic Origins; Histology and Normal Cellular Morphology; Pathology, Cytopathology, and Biologic Behavior; and Laboratory Operations. Each of these content areas comprises a specific percentage of the overall 50-question exam. The content areas and percentages are described below:

CONTENT AREA	EXAM PERCENTAGE
ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND EMBRYOLOGIC ORIGINS	5%
HISTOLOGY AND NORMAL CELLULAR MORPHOLOGY	10%
PATHOLOGY, CYTOPATHOLOGY, AND BIOLOGIC BEHAVIOR	75%
LABORATORY OPERATIONS	10%

For a more specific overview of the CTgyn(ASCPⁱ) exam, please refer to the **CONTENT OUTLINE** on page 2.

INTERNATIONAL GYNECOLOGIC CYTOLOGIST, CTgyn(ASCPⁱ) EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

Examination questions, which are related to the subtest areas outlined below, will be both theoretical and/or procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge of cytologic criteria, identify/evaluate microscopic findings, and correlate microscopic findings to disease states. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to select appropriate laboratory techniques and follow quality assurance protocols. Additionally, regulatory questions are based on U.S. sources (e.g., AABB, FDA, CLIA, etc.).

Body sites to include:

- Cervix
- Endocervix
- Endometrium/uterus
- Fallopian tube
- Ovary
- Vagina
- Vulva

I. ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND EMBRYOLOGIC ORIGINS (5%)

II. HISTOLOGY AND NORMAL CELLULAR MORPHOLOGY (10%)

III. PATHOLOGY, CYTOPATHOLOGY, AND BIOLOGIC BEHAVIOR (75%)

- A. Congenital Anomalies**
- B. Benign Lesions/Reactions**
 - 1. Inflammation
 - 2. Organisms and contaminants
 - 3. Benign tumors, hyperplasias, and cysts
 - 4. Effects of therapeutic regimens
- C. Functional Disorders/Endocrinology**
- D. ASCUS/Atypical Glandular Cells/Premalignant Epithelial/Indeterminate Lesions**
- E. Malignant Tumors, Epithelial and Nonepithelial**

IV. LABORATORY OPERATIONS (10%)

A. Quality Management

- 1. Quality control
- 2. Quality assurance methodology and tools
- 3. Risk management

B. Cytopreparation Techniques/Instrumentation (to include collection, processing, and special techniques)

- 1. Principles
- 2. Procedures
- 3. Troubleshooting
- 4. Fixatives and stains
- 5. Validation

C. Safety and Infection Control

D. Molecular (e.g., HPV)

Examples provided (as indicated by e.g.) are not limited to those listed.

All Board of Certification examinations use conventional and SI units for results and reference ranges.

END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE