

NCCT TECH IN SURGERY CERTIFIED (TSC) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which of the following is a correct date notation for a sterile package?**
 - A. 320
 - B. 164
 - C. 210
 - D. 108
- 2. During a laparoscopic procedure, which additional supplies need to be opened if the procedure converts to an open surgery?**
 - A. Scalpel blades
 - B. Lap sponges
 - C. Hemostats
 - D. Surgical drapes
- 3. What should be done to ensure the sterile technique is maintained during surgery?**
 - A. Review the surgical checklist
 - B. Communicate openly with the team
 - C. Continuously monitor gloving techniques
 - D. Use only disposable instruments
- 4. Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, which must the surgical technologist verify? (Select the three correct answers)**
 - A. Expiration date
 - B. Lot number
 - C. Size
 - D. Manufacturer name
- 5. Which retractor has sharp disposable inserts that require disposal in a sharps container?**
 - A. Mayfield
 - B. Cloward
 - C. Bookwalter
 - D. Greenfield

- 6. What type of dressing should a surgical technologist anticipate needing for a hydrocelectomy?**
- A. Ace bandage
 - B. Gauze packing
 - C. Scrotal support
 - D. Elastoplast
- 7. What is one of the items a surgical technologist should have ready during a laparoscopic appendectomy?**
- A. GIA stapler
 - B. Trocars
 - C. Light cords
 - D. All of the above
- 8. If a surgeon is away during a critical moment, what should the surgical technologist prioritize?**
- A. Preparing for the next procedure
 - B. Monitoring the sterile field
 - C. Applying pressure to control bleeding
 - D. Contacting the OR supervisor
- 9. What instrument is used to extend the arteriotomy during a carotid endarterectomy?**
- A. Scalpel
 - B. Potts Smith
 - C. Metzenbaum scissors
 - D. Ligation clamp
- 10. For which patient allergies would treated loban drape be contraindicated?**
- A. Penicillin
 - B. Tropical fruit
 - C. Latex
 - D. Shellfish

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. C
9. B
10. D

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a correct date notation for a sterile package?

- A. 320
- B. 164**
- C. 210
- D. 108

The correct choice for date notation on a sterile package is indicated by the number 164. This notation typically represents the date when the package was sterilized according to specific industry standards. In many surgical settings, date notation often follows a format that includes the year, month, and day, or it may utilize a sequential numbering system that corresponds to the year or the Julian calendar. In this case, the number "164" can be interpreted as 164 days into the year, which corresponds to a specific date, ensuring that the items remain sterile and that any expiration or reprocessing timelines are based on a valid date. This is essential in maintaining the sterility and safety of surgical instruments and supplies. Accurate date notation helps surgical techs and healthcare professionals track the usability of sterile items, thereby reducing the risk of infections during surgical procedures. The other options do not conform to recognized date formats or are not meaningful in terms of tracking sterilization dates, which is why they are not the correct choice.

2. During a laparoscopic procedure, which additional supplies need to be opened if the procedure converts to an open surgery?

- A. Scalpel blades
- B. Lap sponges**
- C. Hemostats
- D. Surgical drapes

In the context of a laparoscopic procedure converting to an open surgery, it is crucial to have additional supplies ready to manage the surgical field effectively and maintain hemostasis. Lap sponges play a vital role in absorbing blood and fluids, which is essential during any surgical procedure to keep the site clear and dry. When transitioning from laparoscopic to open surgery, the exposure is larger, and the potential for bleeding increases, necessitating the use of lap sponges to control this. Having these sponges readily available allows the surgical team to swiftly and effectively address any bleeding and helps in maintaining a clean operative field. Other items like scalpel blades or hemostats, while useful in surgery, may not specifically relate to the challenges posed by changing from a minimally invasive to an open approach. Similarly, surgical drapes, though essential for maintaining sterility, do not directly address the immediate operational needs once the surgery format changes. Hence, the focused need for additional lap sponges in this scenario makes them the correct choice.

3. What should be done to ensure the sterile technique is maintained during surgery?

- A. Review the surgical checklist
- B. Communicate openly with the team
- C. Continuously monitor gloving techniques**
- D. Use only disposable instruments

Maintaining sterile technique during surgery is critical for preventing infection and ensuring patient safety. Continuously monitoring gloving techniques is essential because proper gloving is a key aspect of maintaining sterility. The process involves not only ensuring that gloves are sterile at the beginning of the procedure but also monitoring for any breaches or contamination that may occur during surgery. This includes watching for any tears, contact with non-sterile surfaces, or improper glove handling that might compromise the sterile field. While reviewing the surgical checklist, communicating openly with the team, and using disposable instruments are important practices that contribute to overall surgical safety and efficiency, they do not specifically address the immediate and ongoing need to ensure that all personnel are adhering to sterile techniques throughout the procedure. Continuous vigilance in gloving techniques directly supports maintaining a sterile environment, which is crucial for the success of the surgery and the well-being of the patient.

4. Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, which must the surgical technologist verify? (Select the three correct answers)

- A. Expiration date**
- B. Lot number
- C. Size
- D. Manufacturer name

Before opening implants during a total knee replacement, it's crucial for the surgical technologist to verify several key pieces of information to ensure patient safety and the success of the surgery. Verifying the expiration date is essential because using expired implants can compromise sterility and the integrity of the materials used, potentially leading to post-operative complications. The expiration date confirms that the implant is still safe for use and has not degraded over time. Additionally, checking the lot number is important for tracking purposes. The lot number allows the surgical team to trace the product back to the manufacturer in the case of a recall or defect. This is a crucial step in maintaining the highest safety standards within the operating room. Verifying the size of the implant is also critical. Implants come in various sizes, and using the correct size is pivotal for proper fit and function; an incorrect size may result in improper alignment or instability following the procedure. While the manufacturer name could also be a relevant piece of information, the primary verifications that directly impact the surgical procedure are the expiration date, lot number, and size of the implant. Ensuring these details are accurate helps prevent clinical errors, which can significantly affect patient outcomes.

5. Which retractor has sharp disposable inserts that require disposal in a sharps container?

A. Mayfield

B. Cloward

C. Bookwalter

D. Greenfield

The Mayfield retractor is specifically designed for neurosurgical procedures and features sharp disposable inserts that are critical for maintaining a clear surgical field during operations involving delicate tissues. The sharpness of these inserts allows for effective retraction of the scalp and underlying tissues without excessive trauma, which is vital in neurosurgery to protect nerve structures and blood vessels. When these sharp inserts are used, they create a significant risk for injury if not handled properly. Therefore, they need to be disposed of in a sharps container, which is a standardized protocol in surgical environments to ensure safety and biohazard compliance. This is an essential aspect of surgical practice, as it helps prevent needle-stick injuries and the potential transmission of infections. While other retractors listed, such as Cloward, Bookwalter, and Greenfield, serve specific functions in various surgical disciplines, they do not possess the sharp, disposable inserts characteristic of the Mayfield retractor.

6. What type of dressing should a surgical technologist anticipate needing for a hydrocelectomy?

A. Ace bandage

B. Gauze packing

C. Scrotal support

D. Elastoplast

In the context of a hydrocelectomy, a surgical procedure performed to remove fluid from the scrotum, a scrotal support dressing is necessary to provide appropriate postoperative care. The primary purpose of using a scrotal support is to stabilize the surgical area, reduce discomfort, and help prevent swelling or complications after the procedure. This type of dressing comfortably supports the scrotum and protects the surgical site, allowing for healing while minimizing the risk of further issues. The other options do not fit as well for this specific surgical procedure. An Ace bandage provides general compression but may not offer the localized support required in the scrotal area. Gauze packing is typically used for internal wound management rather than external support, while Elastoplast, though advantageous for other types of wounds, does not provide the necessary support for the scrotum post-surgery. Therefore, the scrotal support is the most suitable choice for effective recovery following a hydrocelectomy.

7. What is one of the items a surgical technologist should have ready during a laparoscopic appendectomy?

- A. GIA stapler
- B. Trocars
- C. Light cords
- D. All of the above**

During a laparoscopic appendectomy, a surgical technologist must ensure that various items are prepared and readily available to assist the surgical team effectively. Among these items, trocars play a crucial role as they are the instruments used to create incisions in the abdominal wall and introduce the laparoscopic instruments into the abdominal cavity. This step is essential for performing the procedure safely and effectively. In addition to trocars, a GIA (Gastrointestinal anastomosis) stapler may be used in certain scenarios if there is a need for suturing or stapling during the operation. Light cords are also critical components since they provide illumination within the surgical site, enabling the surgeon to visualize the anatomy clearly during the procedure. Being fully equipped with all these items, including trocars, GIA staplers, and light cords, ensures that the surgical technologists can meet the demands of the operation and support the surgeon's needs without delays. Therefore, having all these items prepared is essential for a smooth and efficient laparoscopic appendectomy.

8. If a surgeon is away during a critical moment, what should the surgical technologist prioritize?

- A. Preparing for the next procedure
- B. Monitoring the sterile field
- C. Applying pressure to control bleeding**
- D. Contacting the OR supervisor

During a critical moment in surgery, the priority should be placed on controlling any bleeding that may inhibit the patient's safety and wellbeing. If the surgeon is away and there is active bleeding, it is imperative for the surgical technologist to apply pressure to control the bleeding effectively. This action not only helps stabilize the patient's condition but also ensures that the surgical field remains manageable when the surgeon returns. While other responsibilities such as monitoring the sterile field, preparing for the next procedure, or contacting the OR supervisor are important, they do not take precedence in a scenario presenting an immediate risk to the patient's life. Immediate interventions during critical situations can make a significant difference in outcomes, emphasizing the need to prioritize actions that directly impact patient safety.

9. What instrument is used to extend the arteriotomy during a carotid endarterectomy?

- A. Scalpel
- B. Potts Smith**
- C. Metzenbaum scissors
- D. Ligation clamp

The instrument used to extend the arteriotomy during a carotid endarterectomy is the Potts Smith scissors. This particular type of scissors is designed with a curved blade that allows for a controlled and precise extension of the incision in vascular procedures. When performing an arteriotomy, it is crucial to maintain a clean and smooth edge to minimize complications and ensure optimal blood flow post-surgery. The curved design of Potts Smith scissors facilitates this extension without damaging surrounding tissues, which is essential for maintaining the integrity of the vessel and preventing excessive trauma. Their specific structure and intended use make them a preferred choice over other instruments for this particular task in the context of carotid endarterectomy. While scalpels are used for initial incisions, their cutting ability does not provide the same control for extending the arteriotomy, making them less suitable for this purpose. Metzenbaum scissors, although useful in other surgical contexts for cutting soft tissues, are not specifically designed for vascular procedures, and ligation clamps serve a very different function of occluding vessels rather than facilitating incision extension.

10. For which patient allergies would treated loban drape be contraindicated?

- A. Penicillin
- B. Tropical fruit
- C. Latex
- D. Shellfish**

The treated loban drape is contraindicated for patients with a latex allergy. This is primarily due to the fact that loban drapes often contain polyisoprene, a synthetic rubber that can cause allergic reactions in individuals who are sensitive to latex. Patients with a known latex allergy may experience symptoms ranging from localized irritation to severe anaphylactic reactions when exposed to latex products used during surgical procedures. In this context, understanding material safety and patient allergies is vital for surgical team members to ensure patient safety. Therefore, it is essential to avoid using loban drapes in patients with a latex allergy to prevent any potential adverse reactions during surgery. While other allergies, such as those to penicillin, tropical fruit, and shellfish, are important to consider, they do not have a direct correlation with the materials present in loban drapes, making the latex allergy the most significant concern in this scenario.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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