

# RCDC



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS  
OF CANADA

## FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION CANDIDATE STUDY GUIDE ORAL MEDICINE AND/OR ORAL PATHOLOGY

### Introduction

The intent of this guide is to provide the candidate with an understanding of the format used for the Fellowship Examination in Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology.

The example questions are intended for candidates in Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology and are meant to demonstrate the various styles of questions that may appear in the exam. The content is meant for illustrative purposes only and **should not be construed as an example of the difficulty level of the examination.**

### Fellowship Examination Format

Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology Examination

Element
Part 1: Microscopic Evaluation
Part 2: Clinical Oral Pathology (oral)
Part 3: Clinical Oral Medicine (oral)

Oral Pathology Examination

Element
Part 1: Microscopic Evaluation
Part 2: Clinical Oral Pathology (oral)

Oral Medicine Examination

Element
Part 1: Clinical Oral Pathology (oral)
Part 2: Clinical Oral Medicine (oral)

## **Microscopic Evaluation (Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, and Oral Pathology candidates)**

The practical examination consists of a microscopic diagnosis of surgical oral pathology tissue sections. Cytology specimens, electron micrographs, immunohistochemical and molecular histology tissue sections may be included.

Candidates in Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, and Oral Pathology, must bring their own microscope in order to complete the practical microscopic examination. Candidates are responsible for the provision and operation of the microscope, must be completely familiar with its operation and comfortable in making routine diagnoses with this equipment. Candidates must bring a spare bulb and be familiar with changing this bulb. Candidates should also bring any and all microscopic tools (e.g., polarizing lenses) that they believe they may need.

### **Topics for Review**

- Oral Pathology
- General Pathology as it pertains to Oral Pathology

## **Clinical Oral Pathology (Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, and Oral Medicine, and Oral Pathology candidates)**

Clinical Oral Pathology section consists of questions from Examiners, covering the topics common to both Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine listed below.

### **Topics for Review**

#### **Oral**

- History and examination
- Differential Diagnosis
- Work-up
- Diagnosis
- Management/Treatment
- Complications/Prognosis

## **Clinical Oral Medicine (Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, and Oral Medicine candidates)**

The Clinical Oral Medicine section consists of questions from Examiners and will cover topics in Oral Medicine listed below.

### **Topics for Review**

#### Oral

- History and examination
- Differential Diagnosis
- Work-up
- Diagnosis
- Management/Treatment
- Complications/Prognosis

In addition, topics for review include the following as it pertains to oral pathology and/or oral medicine:

- General and Systemic Pathology
- Orofacial Anatomy and Physiology
- Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Immunology
- Microbiology
- General Medicine
- Developmental Conditions
- Benign and Malignant Neoplasms
- Immunological Conditions
- Infectious Diseases, and their Sequelae
- Disorders of Bones and Joints
- Disorders of Salivary Glands
- Physical and Chemical Injuries and their Sequelae
- Metabolic and Hormonal Diseases
- Orofacial Disorders Arising from Ageing, Systemic Disease and Medical Therapies
- Oral and Dental Management of Patients with Complex Medical Conditions
- Orofacial Pain and Neurosensory Disorders

Please note that all topics may not necessarily appear in every examination.

## Overview of the Oral Examination

Both the Clinical Oral Pathology and Clinical Oral Medicine oral sections of the Fellowship Examination test clinical decision-making. Specifically, the ability to assess, treat, and understand probable outcomes. These questions are case based. A typical clinical case protocol contains a hypothetical patient situation (a clinical vignette) developed from actual cases and may include a patient history, tests such as radiographs, and/or clinical photographs. The candidate is then questioned on how he/she will manage the patient.

As part of their preparation, it is also highly recommended that candidates gain as much experience as possible working through case-based oral examination questions. While preparing for the oral examination it is also helpful to have other colleagues and/or mentors present the candidate with clinical cases using the aforementioned format.

Here is a general description of a clinical case protocol; this is followed by a number of sample questions. Once again it should be stressed that the content used in these sample questions are used for illustrative purposes only and should not be construed as an example of the level of difficulty or content of the examination questions.

### Clinical Case Protocol

A typical case would start with a clinical vignette that could include some or all of these elements:

- Age and gender of the patient
- Chief complaint
- History of the chief complaint
- Health history
- Dental history
- Other information as needed
- Initial radiographs and/or photographs

Once the clinical vignette has been presented, the candidate is then questioned on how he/she will manage this clinical case. Additional clinical information, such as radiographs, and/or photographs will be made available upon request or they may be provided automatically to the candidate. An example of the sequencing of questions follows.

#### 1) Case Assessment, Data Gathering, Etiology and Diagnosis

In this section, some of the decision-making skills that may be assessed include:

*Offer a final diagnosis*

*Systematically identify the existing problems*

*Use appropriate additional diagnostic modalities to aid in the diagnosis*

*Demonstrate a questioning strategy to investigate the chief complaint*

*Identify the etiology of the clinical problem*

*Develop a differential diagnosis if appropriate, and be able to discuss each of these legitimate possibilities based on the information provided*

Possible questions that may be asked include:

*Describe what you see?*

*How would you investigate your patient's chief complaint?*

*How would you manage the chief complaint?*

*What other information/test/image would you want to obtain for this patient?*

*How would you proceed?*

*What is your differential diagnosis?*

*What is your probable diagnosis?*

*How would you manage the chief complaint?*

## **2) Treatment Plan, Therapy and Prognosis**

In this section, some of the decision-making skills that may be assessed include:

*Develop a treatment plan or management strategy for this clinical case*

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed treatment plan*

*Discuss the prognosis for the proposed treatment*

*Discuss the management of the case if key clinical information was modified such as a different chief complaint or medical history*

Possible questions that may be asked include:

*You now see these radiographs/photographs/clinical tests, how would you proceed?*

*What would be your treatment plan for this patient?*

*What would be the short and long-term prognosis?*

*How would you explain the treatment plan to the patient?*

*Describe the therapy most beneficial to the patient; indicate why you feel this is the best therapy?*

*The patient questions you about prognosis, how would you respond?*

*Once you have completed the first phase of treatment, what would you do next?*

*The patient presents with a different medical history, for example asthma, how would you modify the treatment plan?*

*If the patient becomes uncooperative with treatment, what would you do next?*

## **3) Therapeutic Results, Complications and Maintenance**

In this section, some of the decision-making skills that may be assessed include:

*Management of the case following the completion of initial treatment*

*Development of a plan to assess the outcomes of treatment*

*Prevention of future complications and reoccurrence of disease*

*Identify and treat possible future complications*  
*Discuss the long-term plan for this patient*  
*Discuss alternative treatments when the patient demonstrates poor compliance*

Possible questions that may be asked include:

*What would be your criteria for successful treatment of this patient?*  
*How would you follow this patient long-term?*  
*Would you see this patient again? when? and how often?*  
*Now that treatment is completed, would you have any concerns?*  
*Is additional treatment indicated in the future?*  
*What are the possible complications for this patient?*  
*What signs and symptoms would you expect?*  
*How would you treat this complication?*  
*If the patient did not respond to treatment, what would be your next step?*  
*What maintenance procedures would you provide for this patient?*

## **Clinical Oral Pathology/Medicine Sample Case**

*Images and History Presented*

1. Describe what you see in the clinical photograph provided.
2. Describe your clinical examination of this patient.
3. Based on the information provided, what is your differential diagnosis and what factors would you consider in formulating your differential diagnosis?
4. Describe the tests you would use to determine the diagnosis?
5. Given the test results, describe your management?