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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS
OF CANADA

FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION CANDIDATE STUDY GUIDE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Introduction

The intent of this guide is to provide the candidate with an understanding of the format used for the Fellowship Examination in Pediatric Dentistry.

The example questions are intended for candidates in Pediatric Dentistry 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

The Fellowship Examination is a test of clinical decision-making. Specifically, the ability to assess, treat, and understand probable outcomes. The cases used in the Fellowship Examination tend to be typical cases that a Pediatric Dentist would see in their practice. The 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, radiographs, and/ or clinical photographs. The candidate is then questioned on how he/she will manage the patient; emphasis is placed on patient care decisions, as if the candidate was caring for 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. It is desirable if the candidate is provided cases that they have never seen before or are unfamiliar with.

Here is a general description of a clinical case protocol; this is followed by a number of example questions.

Clinical Case Protocol

A typical oral examination 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 will then be questioned on how he/she will manage the patient. Additional clinical information, radiographs and/or photographs will be made available upon request or they may be provided automatically to the candidate. The following is 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:

- Systematically identify the existing problems
- Use appropriate additional diagnostic modalities to aid in the diagnosis
- Demonstrate a questioning strategy to investigate the patient and 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
- Offer a final diagnosis

Possible questions that may be asked include:

How would you proceed?

Describe what you see?

How would you investigate your patient's chief complaint?

What other information/test/image would you want to obtain for this patient? How would you manage the chief complaint?

What is your differential diagnosis?

What is your probable diagnosis?

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

Possible questions that may be asked include:

You now see these radiographs/photographs/clinical tests, how would you proceed? What would you discuss about the treatment at this time?

What would be your treatment plan for this patient? What would be the short and long-term prognosis?

Describe how would you explain the treatment plan to the parents?

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

The parents question you about prognosis, how would you respond?

Once you have completed the first phase of 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 recurrence of disease
- Identify and treat possible future complications
- Discuss the long-term plan for this patient
- Discuss alternative treatments if the patient demonstrates poor compliance
- Discuss the management of the case if key clinical information was modified such as a different patient age or medical history

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? If so, 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? 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 recommend for this patient?

Suppose this patient had (medical condition), how would this affect your treatment plan?

SAMPLE CASE QUESTIONS

You see a 4-year-old boy for a new patient examination. The chief complaint reported by the mother is _____.

1. How would you proceed?

You are shown images of the patient discussed in the case

2. What are your general clinical findings?
3. What would you do next?
4. After reviewing... Discuss your differential diagnosis.
5. You diagnose _____. Discuss your treatment plan for this child.
6. What would you review with the parents at this time?
7. Discuss your short term and long term prognosis for this patient
8. Discuss you long-term management for this child.
9. You complete _____. The following month you see this patient again and you observe __. How would you proceed?
10. Suppose after 2 months you had observed ___, how would you manage this patient?
11. How would your treatment differ if _____?