

Preface

It is important to explain at the outset that we do not regard this as a typical “test yourself” book. There are no pass marks and it is not designed as a set of mock-exam questions with model answers. We regard it as a way of learning or revising a topic, by challenging yourself. The best approach is to attempt a question and then use the answers provided to test or supplement your knowledge. We believe that putting the answers immediately after the questions will suit many students far better than the approach of most other revision aids, where the answers are hidden at the back. We would suggest you answer one question at a time (with the answers covered) and then consider the given answer, before moving to the next question. But of course it is your book — so you may do as you please! Obviously, a revision aid cannot be exhaustive and so depending on your background level of knowledge you may also wish to look up some points in a standard text book before moving on. We have used the “single best answer” format in the MCQ’s and EMQ’s as this appears to be in use in the majority of medical schools at the present time. We hope that this format will result in an understanding of context as well as the retention of facts.

Deliberately we have not linked the current book with our previous text book “Surgical Talk”, as we felt students would wish to have completely fresh stand-alone text. Of course there will be a large amount of overlap, but we make no apologies for the fact that a few topics or answers may be found in one book but not the other. However, as with “Surgical Talk”, this book aims for a level of knowledge and the approach that would be expected of the better students arriving at finals. Some of the questions are deliberately quite difficult — but we hope all are fair! Like “Surgical Talk” we have also included ENT, orthopaedics and urology as well as general surgery so that you do not have to buy endless revision aids to ensure you have surgery covered.

Finally we would like to thank our colleagues and friends who have contributed the questions and answers. They are all very busy people and so we are very grateful for their help.

Good luck with your revision and the exam. We hope this book will help you prepare for surgical finals with enthusiasm and confidence.

*Gerard Stansby
Andrew Goldberg*