

USMLE PREP LECTURE SERIES Lecture 2.1

ELITE MEDICAL PREP

Elite Medical Prep Guide for Technion Students from Day 1 to Test day

Last Updated: October 29 , 2018. Delivered: October 29, 2018

Objectives

Integrated USMLE Step 1 Program

- Background
- > 2018 Results
- > Plan
- USMLE Basics
- Question Breakdowns—Cardiology
 Resource Reviews

Live Polling We will be using Poll Everywhere:

www.pollev.com/marcelbrusra627







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Our Team

We are a group of healthcare professionals who have attained exceedingly high scores on our USMLE exams, and have dedicated our time to helping medical students achieve their own testing and professional goals. We want our students to see the USMLE as an opportunity to shine rather than as a barrier to residency acceptance.

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Our team has published more than 95 academic and research papers



Our tutors boast more than 11 different medicalspecialties



Our tutors are colleagues. Not freelancers.

Our Founders

Kenneth Rubin, MD Co-founder and CEO

Mt Sinai USMLE Course Director

Mt. Sinai | Columbia University

Marcel Brus-Ramer, MD/PhD Co-founder and President

Board Certified Radiologist Columbia P&S Online Lecturer

> Columbia University | UCSF | Rutgers | Paris Diderot

With nearly 17 years and 10,000+ hours of combined USMLE teaching and tutoring experience, the founders of Elite Medical Prep ("Elite"), Kenneth Rubin, MD and Marcel Brus-Ramer MD/PhD, have developed a unique system of 1-on-1, small group and lecture-based instruction to maximize USMLE preparedness for students of all levels and backgrounds.

Results at Technion

Data from Elite Medical Prep's work with Technion during the 2017-2018 academic year



*High impact lectures integrated with existing curriculum delivered by Elite Medical Prep's founders: Dr. Brus-Ramer & Dr. Rubin

*Online small groups were of 3 students each directed by experienced senior tutors rigorously trained and vetted by Elite Medical Prep Elite's Integrated Program Significantly Increases Average Step 1 Score Performance.



Elite's Integrated Program

Improves On-Time Test Taking.

Elite's Integrated Program Increases the Number of Strong USMLE Step 1 Performances.



Class Specific Site



- Forum for Q & A
- Lecture Notes
- Calendar
- Content •







Technion Student Posted: July 29, 2016 07:16pm

Are non-caseating granulomas unique to sarcoidosis? Or do all auto-inflammatory causes of granulomas display non-caseating granulomas? Along the same lines, do all infectious causes of granulomas display caseating granulomas or is it only tuberculosis?

Marcel Brus-Ramer ostad: July 29, 2018 @9:45pm

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Download Post-Lecture Notes

CLASS CALENDER

1 (508) 928-7737 | @elitemedicalprep 1324 Lexington Ave. Suite #285, New York NY 10129

ITE **MEDICAL** PREP

Step 1 Outline

Year One





COST

- \$100 per student for 10hr of Tutoring (in groups of 3).
- Groups can extend up to 20hr of total tutoring
 - Arrangements and pricing to be handled on a group-by-group basis

USMLE Step 1 Basics

- Consists of 3 steps: 1,2, and 3

 - Steps 1 & 2: most important for residency applications
 Step 1 has the most basic science, biochemistry, and general scientific principles
 - Step 2 is more diagnosis and management-focused
 - > Step 3 is focused on complex management and critical review of literature
- 280 MCQs, 8-hr testing session (7 x 1 hr blocks, 1 hr of break time)
- Scoring 3-digit; mean 230, SD 20, Pass > 194.
 - Many questions are embedded in clinical vignettes
 - Tests ability to: "apply important concepts of the sciences basic to the practice of medicine"
 - > Questions require linking together various pieces of knowledge



Why is the test important? Why do Residencies care so much?

- Filter applications quickly
- There are tests throughout medical education—you need to show you can pass them
- Pass Test > Get License > Work as a Doctor
 - Non-working resident is a major problem for a residency



Basic USMLE Recommendations

Develop a Plan

- We'll get you started
- Follow through with it. Start now. Do your best to keep up





Plan creation & follow through

Students who lay out a clear calendar for their dedicated study time tend to have less anxiety and are better prepared on test day.



- Organ-Based System of Studying
 - Much preferred to Physio then Pathophys
- Budget Time To Do All Questions TWICE & review them
 - Divide: # of Questions / # of Study Days
- Use external support to help you maintain the schedule
 - Peers, Family, Friends
 - Programs, Apps
 - Tutors

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MEDICAL PR

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Integrate USMLE studying into your school studying

- Read First Aid chapter aligned with your Technion curriculum (i.e Cardiology)
- Puts you ahead of the curve for the USMLE exam
- Also, helps for school exams



Start your preparations early

Part of our purpose is to help you get started TODAY



- Give yourself time to build up your knowledge
- Starting early can mean:
 - Doing Qbank or practice questions
 - Using First Aid during your classes
 - Watching Pathoma videos
 - Reviewing Biochem

When?

- Now
- Tomorrow

• Caveats:

- Do not ignore your classes
- Small but limited amount of time on a <u>daily</u> basis



Take many tests & don't save questions

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Limit your resources

- Focus on deeply understanding a limited set of resources
- More powerful than a superficial understanding of many resources

MEDICAL P

Understand your goals

- <u>Current goal</u>: maximize pre-clinical learning.
- End of year goal: maximize USMLE score

Know when to reach out for help

• We offer 1:1 private tutoring to any students





Limit your resources. Prune your medical school notes.





Limit Your Resources

- First Aid and the Qbank should comprise <u>>90%</u> of your study efforts
- Get through Qbank <u>at least 2x</u> before taking the exam
 - 1st Pass: mixture of TUTOR mode & TIMED mode
 - Reset the Qbank
 - 2nd Pass: TIMED MODE
- We recommend taking notes or making flashcards on missed questions

Test questions and question prompts are frequently recycled with minor adjustments

- NBMEs and UWorld Self Assessments: 2 PURPOSES
 - 1. Objective assessment of where you are, and if you are ready to sit for the exam
 - 2. Exposes you to question prompts from the actual test writers



WE WILL DISCUSS AT THE END OF THIS LECTURE



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What's the average score? What is a good score?

Step 1				
Calendar Year	Mean (SD)			
2014	229 (20)	$\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}$		
2015	229 (20)	A score > 249 \rightarrow top 16%		
2016	228 (21)			
Step 2 Clinical Knowledge				
Academic Year	Mean (SD)			
2013-2014	240 (18)			
2014-2015	240 (18)	A score > 255 \rightarrow top 20%		
2015-2016	242 (17)			
Step 3				
Calendar Year	Mean (SD)			
2014	222 (16)	\sim A score > 240 \rightarrow top 16%		
2015	225 (16)	$= \sum_{n=1}^{n} A \operatorname{SCOTE} > 240 \rightarrow \operatorname{top} 10\%$		
	225 (15)			

What Step 1 score do I need to get into residency?

Specialty	Matched	Unmatched	Obstetrics & Gynecology	226	209	
Anesthesiology	230	208	Orthopedic Surgery	245	231	
Child Neurology	229	228	Otolaryngology	248	239	
Dermatology	247	239	Pathology	231	217	
Diag Radiology	241	221	Pediatrics	226	206	
Emergency Med	230	215	Physical Med & Rehab	220	205	
Family Med	218	201	Plastic Surgery	245	236	
Gen Surgery	232	213	(and conflict)		2.50	
Internal Med	231	210	Psychiatry	220	205	
Internal Med/Peds	233	223	Radiation Oncology	241	237	
Neurosurgery	244	232	Vascular Surgery	237	221	
Neurology	230	208	All Combined	230	221	L

Overall, we recommend students aim for >220 on Step 1 to give a good chance at matching into a residency program

MEDICAL PRED

A 26 year old woman is brought to the emergency department by her roommate because of vomiting for 4 hours. She also has a 2 day history of fatigue and dizziness on standing. She has had severe heartburn for 3 months; treatment with over-the-counter antacids has provided some relief. The vital signs of the patient are T 35.6C (96F), pulse 110/min, and blood pressure 80/55 mm Hg. Physical examination shows marked pallor. Laboratory studies show a hemoglobin concentration of 6 g/dL and hematocrit of 18%. A chest x-ray is obtained (shown) and a pulmonary catheter is inserted and laboratory values are measured.

The patient is most likely experiencing which of the following types of shock?

A) Anaphylactic.

B) Cardiogenic.

C) Hypovolemic.

D) Neurogenic.

E) Septic.







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How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers First... Start at the End

Read the question stem.

• Understand what the question is asking you to do

- Ex: "What's the most likely diagnosis?"
- Ex: "What is the underlying mechanism?"
- Ex: "Which serum marker will be decreased?"
- > Ex: "What is the side effect of the likely drug given?"

Note: Distractor answers will fit only 1 clue or some of the information given, not ALL

> Ex: "What's the next best step?" Note: As a general rule, except in emergencies, the **least** invasive test or procedure that helps the patient is usually correct

- Allows you to maintain focus. Especially on longer vignettes
- Avoids a Common Pitfall: students know the vignette but answers the 'wrong' question about it.

A standardized approach to USMLE prompts ensures you get the most out of each question

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How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers Let the answers help you, not hurt you.

Scan the answer choices

- See if you can break them down into categories or buckets
- Read the answer choices quickly and categorize them
 - > Example:
 - A) Anaphylactic.
 - B) Cardiogenic.
 - C) Hypovolemic.
 - D) Neurogenic.
 - E) Septic.
- A & E are immune mediated
 - > We would expect either signs of allergic reaction, infection, and a history of an exposure.
- B & D are related primary dysfunction of an organ system
 - > Look for a clear finding to points to the heart of the autonomic nervous system/spinal cord
- C is massive volume loss
 - Is there a cause?

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How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers Let the answers help you, not hurt you.

Actively read the prompt, summarizing as you go into your own words

 As information is given, begin piecing it together into a bigger picture in your own words

> Your "big picture" summary will be <u>immensely</u> helpful in selecting an answer

- Summary:
 - Young woman with acute onset GI symptoms presenting in shock with tachycardia and anemia, but no fever
- Use the summary to help narrow down answer choices.
 - Always try to use Process of Elimination (POE)
 - Helps to find the right answer
 - Helps exclude the wrong answers
 - > Increases your confidence that you are right \rightarrow reduces 2nd guessing yourself!



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How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers Learn key normal values. Look at images last /ignore.

- Strong familiarity w/ lab values will reduce anxiety/confusion later. Imaging is important in the real world of medicine. Not so much on the test.
 - Chem 7 and CBC must be memorized. Vitals must be burned in your memory forever!
 - > Develop sense of upper/lower limits for Na, K, Cl, Cr, Ca, BUN, Gluc Hgb, Hct, WBC, Plt
 - Look at images LAST, if at all
 - Radiology Imaging You are NOT a radiologist.
 - Do not need to make radiographic diagnoses
 - > Rare exceptions (i.e ptx, free air under diaphragm, Epidural, SDH or SAH)
 - Patient Pictures
 - Lesions can be helpful if they are pathognomonic for a disease process
 - ➤ i.e mucosal lesions for Peutz-Jeghers.
 - Smears/Histology
 - > Blood smears helpful for basics: micro vs macrocytosis, and relative cell size
 - Not expected you to identify individual cells or provide detailed analysis



How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers

Example rare images that are highly helpful



Pneumothorax







Dissection

Shistocyte



Peutz-Jeghers



Sturge-Weber

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Macrocytosis





How to Approach a Prompt/Question and Answers

Employing a <u>standardized approach</u> to USMLE prompts ensures you're getting the most out of each question

6 g/dL and hematocrit of 18%. Understand the labs, KNOW the normal values AP CRECT T 35.6C (96F), pulse 110/min blood pressure 80/55 mm Hg Images are rarely helpful on the **USMLE** PRFP

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B) Cardiogenic.

C) Hypovolemic.

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E) Septic.

EMP's SUGGESTED ORDER. There is no one right way to do this. The question stem – tells you what the question is asking

The answer choices – Given you some context as to what the question is about

The prompt – Summarize key information as it's given in your own words; ensure that the answer matches ALL of the information given, not just some

Labs and images. EVAL the labs. IGNORE the images.

A 26 year old woman is brought to the emergency department by her roommate because of vomiting for 4 hours. She also has a 2 day history of fatigue and dizziness on standing. She has had severe heartburn for 3 months; treatment with over-the-counter antacids has provided some relief. The vital signs of the patient are T 35.6C (96F), pulse 110/min, and blood pressure 80/55 mm Hg. Physical examination shows marked pallor. Laboratory studies show a hemoglobin concentration of 6 g/dL and hematocrit of 18%. A chest x-ray is obtained (shown) and a pulmonary catheter is inserted and laboratory values are measured.

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EDICAL PREP

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- Golden Rule: If an answer jumps out at you, choose it. DO NOT change it (unless you re-read and are 100% sure it's wrong)
- If an answer does not jump out at you→ Process of Elimination

Think about what you would expect the prompt to give you for each answer: Anaphylactic– Cardiogenic– **Hypovolemic–** Neurogenic– Septic–

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Cardio #1

A 1-week-old newborn is brought to the physician because of a 1-day history of difficulty breathing and discoloration of the lower extremities. He was born at term following an uncomplicated delivery. Apgar scores were 8 and 9 at 1 and 5 minutes, respectively. He appears ill. His rectal temperature is 36.4°C (97.5°F), pulse is 160/min, respirations are 52/min, and blood pressure is 80/56 mm Hg in the upper extremities and unobtainable in the lower extremities. The skin, mucous membranes, and nail beds appear dusky, and there is mottled discoloration of the lower extremities. Examination shows moderate intercostal retractions and grunting. The lungs are clear to auscultation. A grade 3/6 holosystolic murmur is heard along the left sternal border. The liver edge is palpated 4 cm below the right costal margin. Arterial blood gas analysis on room air shows:

- PH: 7.45
- PCO2: 28 mm Hg
- PO2: 98 mm Hg

Which of the following is the most likely explanation for the newborn's condition?

- A. Closure of the ductus arteriosus
- B. Decreased pulmonary vascular resistance
- C. Increased pulmonary vascular resistance
- D. Intracardiac right-to-left shunt
- E. Opening of the ductus arteriosus
- F. Tetralogy of Fallot









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If you see this message in presentation mode, install the add-in or get help at PollEx.com/app

Question #1

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Start with the question and answers

1) Which of the following is the most likely explanation for the newborn's condition?

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2

Remember the cyanotic heart diseases: 5"T's"

- Tricuspid atresia
- Truncus arteriosus
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Transposition of the great arteries
- Total anomalous pulmonary venous return

Hard to remember this? MAKE A FLASHCARD Very High Yield for USMLE



Read the prompt and summarize in your OWN words

A <u>1-week-old</u> newborn is brought to the physician because of a <u>1-day history</u> of <u>difficulty breathing</u> and <u>discoloration of the lower extremities</u>. He was born at term following an uncomplicated delivery. Apgar scores were 8 and 9 at 1 and 5 minutes, respectively. He appears ill. His rectal temperature is 36.4°C (97.5°F), pulse is 160/min, <u>respirations are 52/min</u>, and blood pressure is <u>80/56 mm Hg in the</u> <u>upper extremities and unobtainable in the lower extremities</u>. The skin, mucous membranes, and nail beds appear dusky, and there is <u>mottled discoloration of the lower extremities</u>. Examination shows moderate intercostal retractions and grunting. The <u>lungs are clear</u> to auscultation. A grade <u>3/6</u> <u>holosystolic murmur</u> is heard along the left sternal border. The liver edge is palpated 4 cm below the right costal margin.



ABGs: You need to be very comfortable interpreting and knowing normal values

Patient Values	Interpretation:
▶ pH: 7.45	Normal pH
➢ PCO2: 28	HYPERventilation = low PCO2
➢ PaO2: 98	Good oxygenation
	Patient Values > pH: 7.45 > PCO2: 28 > PaO2: 98



- A. Closure of the ductus arteriosus
- B. Decreased pulmonary vascular resistance
- C. Increased pulmonary vascular resistance
- D. Intracardiac right-to-left shunt
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- F. Tetralogy of Fallot



- A. Closure of the ductus arteriosus
- B. Decreased pulmonary vascular resistance Would not cause different BP in arms vs legs: Ventilation/PO2 is normal; this is a <u>normal</u> in newborns as PDA closes and lungs begin to function
- C. Increased pulmonary vascular resistance
- D. Intracardiac right-to-left shunt
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- D. Intracardiac right-to-left shunt Would cause poor oxygenation (PaO2 is normal) and would not cause low BP or different BP arms vs legs
- E. Opening of the ductus arteriosus
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- E. Opening of the ductus arteriosus- Would lead to improved blood flow below the coarctation
- F. Tetralogy of Fallot



Differential BP arms vs legs suggests a **coarctation** of the aorta

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- E. Opening of the ductus arteriosus- Would lead to improved blood flow below the coarctation
- F. Tetralogy of Fallot Would cause cyanosis, and not different BP in arms vs legs



Differential BP arms vs legs suggests a coarctation of the aorta

- A. Closure of the ductus arteriosus Would make coarctation more pronounced/symptomatic
- B. Decreased pulmonary vascular resistance Would not cause different BP arms vs legs: Ventilation/PO2 is normal; this is a <u>normal</u> in newborns as PDA closes and lungs begin to function
- C. Increased pulmonary vascular resistance Would not cause different BP arms vs legs ventilation/PO2 is normal
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- E. Opening of the ductus arteriosus- Would lead to improved blood flow below the coarctation

F. Tetralogy of Fallot – Would cause cyanosis, and not different BP in arms vs legs





Ductus Arteriosus Physiology



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Quick review on coarctation and PDA

Different blood pressure in arms vs legs is a major clue for <u>Coarctation (young)</u> or AAA (elderly)...

...and an open PDA may have supplied sufficient blood flow below the coarctation before it closed



PDA supplies critical perfusion below the coarctation; many congenital heart diseases are LESS symptomatic if the PDA remains open



<u>Higher level info</u>: Pre-ductal vs Post-ductal coarctation. Which is Infantile? Adult? Which is assoc w/ rib notching?

Cardio #1A

In order to avoid development of progressively worsening heart failure, the medical team wants to maintain the patency of the ductus arteriosus before it completely closes. Which of the following medications would be most effective?

- A. Ketorolac
- B. Aspirin
- C. Zileuton
- D. Betamethasone
- E. Dinoprostone
- F. Clonidine





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Cardio #1A

In order to avoid development of progressively worsening heart failure, the medical team wants to maintain the patency of the ductus arteriosus before it completely closes. Which of the following medications would be most effective?

- A. Ketorolac
- B. Aspirin
- C. Zileuton
- D. Betamethasone
- E. Dinoprostone
- F. Clonidine



Cardio #1B

Despite the prostaglandin therapy, the patient is developing worsening symptoms of heart failure and poor blood flow to the kidneys that is exacerbating their clinical status. A low dose medication is given to help reverse these processes and improve cardiovascular function and renal perfusion. This medication mimics an endogenous molecule produced by the body. Which of the following is necessary for the body to synthesize this molecule on its own?

- A. Vitamin B1
- B. Vitamin B6
- C. Vitamin B9
- D. Vitamin B12
- E. Vitamin C
- F. S-adenosylmethionine





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Cardio #1B

Despite the prostaglandin therapy, the patient is developing worsening symptoms of heart failure and poor blood flow to the kidneys that is exacerbating their clinical status. A low dose medication is given to help reverse these processes and improve cardiovascular function and renal perfusion. This medication mimics an endogenous molecule produced by the body. Which of the following is necessary for the body to synthesize this molecule on its own?

- A. Vitamin B1
- B. Vitamin B6
- C. Vitamin B9
- D. Vitamin B12
- E. Vitamin C
- F. S-adenosylmethionine



What to do RIGHT NOW: Leveraging Qbank. Use First Aid as a supplement to regular studying

What You Need

First Aid:



UWorld

USMLE

- Read the First Aid chapter that corresponds with the topic you are studying during medical school
- Take notes about important topics or mnemonics you want to remember
- Annotate the margins with additional information from the Qbank

<u>Uworld QBank</u>

- Go through the corresponding Qbank questions with the topic you are studying
- Tutor mode is best as it allows you to fully read the explanations and learn without time pressure
- The scores aren't as important as the exposure to real test material and high-yield topics



Platform	✓ Key Positives
0.003	✓ Best illustrations
10 CHARLE	✓ Comprehensive without being overly detailed
(OSMOSIS	✓ Study schedule tool is unmatched
	✓ User friendly; Integrated with key resources
	✓ Mobile friendly
AMBOSS	✓ Comprehensive, but overly detailed
	✓ Guidance Mode in Qbank
	 Embedded key resources
Lash vala	✓ User friendly
	✓ Great illustrations
	 Integration with key resources
Dathoma	Procents noth/nothenbys in manageable shunks
Fallionia	Presents path pathophys in manageable chunks
Poarde Boyond"	✓ Well organized and integrated with key resources
odrus and beyond	 Good second source for tough topics
	✓ Good integration of pharmacology and physiology
	✓ User friendly
Onlinemedia	✓ comprehensive for shelf exams
	✓ Excellent videos
1	
KAPLAN)	 Large question bank and practice exams
	✓ Mobile friendly

usmle

✓ Good review of basic USMLE tenets with references to First Aid

Exams we recommend for these platforms...





Leveraging Qbank and First Aid as a supplement to regular studying

Maximize your learning	Add to your school notes and First Aid (margins) based on questions you come across in the Qbank Make flashcards of key topics and facts you want to remember; especially drugs As you study the pathophysiology of disease, refer back to first year lectures to first review the normal physiology
Look for patterns	The USMLE tends to utilize the same phrases/words to describe certain disease processes (i.e fatty-greasy stools = malabsorption) – take note of these While reviewing Qbank questions, determine what you would expect the prompt to have given you to if the wrong answers were correct

The goal right now is QUALITY, not quantity.



Leveraging Qbank and First Aid as a supplement to regular studying How you can get the most out of every question

A 26 year old woman is brought to the emergency department by her roommate because of vomiting for 4 hours. She also has a 2 day history of fatigue and dizziness on standing. She has had severe heartburn for 3 months; treatment with over-the-counter antacids has provided some relief. The vital signs of the patient are T 35.6C (96F), pulse 110/min, and blood pressure 80/55 mm Hg. Physical examination shows marked pallor. Laboratory studies show a hemoglobin concentration of 6 g/dL and hematocrit of 18%. A chest x-ray is obtained (shown) and a pulmonary catheter is inserted and laboratory values are measured.

The patient is most likely experiencing which of the following types of shock?

- A) Anaphylactic.
- B) Cardiogenic.
- C) Hypovolemic.
- D) Neurogenic.
- E) Septic.
- What is Hypovolemic Shock?
- What factors in the prompt differentiate it from the other choices?
- How would the vignette change if another answer were the correct one?
- What are the other answer choices? Can I create a mini summary (in bullet 5 points or less)?





Set a Personalized Calendar

- Takes the guesswork out of studying
- Gives you comfort that you are studying the right topics, the right way
- Takes into account the resources you will be using, your exact timeline until test day, and any personal circumstances (e.g. religious holidays or vacations)
- General Steps for Right Now:
 - 3-5 Daily Questions in Qbank (TUTOR MODE)
- Incorporate First Aid into your note taking NOW.
- Get familiar with a flashcard program (Anki, Quizlet, et al)





FAQs about Setting your study calendar

- How detailed should I make the calendar at this time?
 - Planning down to the hour each day rarely works out
 - causes more anxiety than it's worth
 - Stick to the "topic" level. Supplement your classwork w/ FA and a few daily Qs.
- What if I get behind?
 - Focus on your classwork
 - Now is not the time to cram for the USMLE. Slow and steady work is the key here

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Next Steps in our engagement

- We are available for feedback and questions. A dedicated email has been created for students in your class year at Technion. <u>technion2021@elitemedicalprep.com</u>
- Please send questions and comments after the sessions to this email. Responses will be prompt and questions relevant to the group will be summarized and shared

 Collect feedback from you and the students regarding our service, so that we may better serve you all moving forward



