

American Society for Mohs Surgery

Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) Study Guide 2024

The fourth MDS exam will be given September 23-28, 2024. Exam registration begins in April 2024. Please check the American Board of Dermatology website for the exam registration application. Time slots for the exam are limited and it is best to apply as soon as possible. The practice pathway for eligibility will only be available for the next two exams, ending with the exam in 2025. After that time, only applicants who have completed an approved ACGME fellowship will be eligible to apply.

The following study guide highlights those MDS sources that were helpful in preparing for the MDS exam based on the recommendations from ASMS members who passed the MDS exam. The first MDS exam (2021) had a pass rate of 95%. The second MDS exam (2022) had a pass rate of 90%. The third exam (2023) had a pass rate of 89%. The ASMS encourages all members who qualify to register for the exam. It is important that as many ASMS members as possible pass the exam.

The following sources are recommended for studying for the MDS exam:

American Board of Dermatology (ABD) MDS Study Guide. This guide is a general outline of the material covered in the exam. Available on the ABD website.

Mohs Board Study Guide: Compiled by Ronald Johnston, MD, 80 pages. This excellent resource covers the ABD MDS Study Guide in a useful bullet point format to make it easier to study and remember. In particular, the one-page summary of immunostains for tumors encountered by Mohs surgeons is outstanding. Also included is online access to five recorded lectures and Mohs Dermatopathology Self- Review Slides. Order at MohsStudyGuide.com. \$349, bound paper copy only, free shipping.

American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS) Member ABD MDS Board Prep Study Guide (2021). This guide follows the outline of the ABD Study Guide with comprehensive information for each bullet point. It provides a solid basis for studying for the exam, although the quality of the various sections is uneven with some sections having more detail than necessary. The pre-, peri- and post-operative sections and the chemotherapeutic sections were very useful. Even though the ACMS has restricted their distribution of this guide to their members, copies of the guide are available on the Internet or from ASMS Mohs surgeons who took the exam.

ASMS MDS Exam Review Course (2024) which will be offered online starting June 8, 2024. Members felt that the ASMS Course was one of the best of the MDS review courses with a total of 12.75 hours CME.

ASDS Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) Exam Review Course. \$199 member, \$499 non-members.

ASDS Pathology Review Course. BCC Mimickers, Immunostains, and Rare Tumors. \$49 member, \$99 non-member.

MohsQBank. 1087 questions with comprehensive answers, \$499-599. Some members found these questions very useful but be aware that some of the content was too detailed and strayed outside the bounds of the ABD MDS Study Guide and was not covered on the exam.

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) ResQ Procedural Dermatology Review. 500 questions. Some of the content strayed outside the bounds of the ABD MDS Study Guide.

AAD Boards Fodder Archive. Procedural Dermatology: Local anesthesia, Danger zones and relevant anatomy, Flaps, Grafts, Surgical instruments, Sutures and suture material, Transplant dermatology, and Wound dressings.

AAD Appropriate Use Criteria 2012. App available on the AAD website. Original article at J Am Acad Dermatol 2012; 67: 531-50.

AAD Guidelines for BCC, SCC, and Melanoma available on the AAD website.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) (www.nccn.org) Guidelines for BCC, SCC, Melanoma, Merkel Cell CA, Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans. These are available for free on the NCCN Website, but registration is required. For the most part, the exam did not cover the finer nuances listed in the footnotes of these guidelines.

Mohs Surgery and Histopathology: Beyond the Fundamentals by Ken Gross & Howard K. Steinman. Available on Amazon,

Mohs Surgery Fundamentals & Techniques by Ken Gross, Howard K. Steinman, and Ronald Rapini (\$130.00 ASMS Store)

Atlas of Practical Mohs Histopathology by Sumaira Z. Asai, David J. Leffel & Rossitza Z. Lazova. Available on Amazon.

Frozen section artifacts. In addition to the two Mohs textbooks listed above, the following reference is useful. Dermatol Surg 2000; 26: 500-4.

Mohs Special Issue, Dermatologic Surgery December 2019; 45. Multiple articles on Mohs surgery for advanced tumors/difficult locations.

Staging Systems:

SCC: ACMS Study Guide and J Am Acad Dermatol 2019; 80:106-13. Discuss AJCC staging system and Brigham and Women's Hospital staging system.

Melanoma: ACMS Study Guide lists AJCC staging system.

Merkel Cell CA: ACMS Study Guide lists AJCC staging system.