
ORAL EXAM

Case 1

Exposed tissue expander

A 35-year-old woman underwent delayed breast reconstruction using a tissue expander three months ago. She returns to your office for an implant inflation. She is concerned because she can see the implant.



Objective 1: The candidate demonstrates the options for an exposed implant

Question 1:

What features would be important on history before a discussion regarding how to proceed?

Key Answers 1:

Fevers, chills, other systemic signs of infection
Prior history of radiation
Length of time during which the implant has been visible

Objective 2: The candidate can demonstrate options for managing an exposed breast implant

Question 2:

This patient has not received radiation. She feels well and has no purulent drainage. She asks you to list her options at this point. What do you say?

Key Answers 2:

Explantation leaving a mastectomy
Explantation and delayed reconstruction
Attempt implant salvage – advises patient of risks associated with this

Objective 3: The candidate develops a surgical plan for implant salvage

Question 3:

The patient asks that you attempt to salvage her implant. What issues would you discuss during her consent process?

Key Answers 3:

Procedure to be performed in the main OR
Complete washout
Deflation of the implant to decrease tension on mastectomy flaps
Delay expansion until the wound is well healed
A high likelihood of recurrent implant exposure which would necessitate explantation

Question 4:

Describe your surgical procedure

Key Answers 4:

General Anesthetic in the main OR
Complete I&D with cultures
Washout with copious irrigation
Capsulectomy if possible
Consider replacing the tissue expander vs. using the same expander soaked in povidone or Adams solution
Placement of a drain
IV antibiotic

Case 2

Groin flap

A 53-year-old man was working in a barn when he injured his thumb.



Objective 1: The candidate can determine options for reconstruction

Question 1:

The amputated part is not available. What are your options for soft tissue coverage?

Key Answers 1:

Reverse Radial forearm flap
Free flap
Groin flap

Question 2:

The patient has avulsion of FPL and EPL with pain in the forearm. What would you choose for reconstruction?

Key Answers 2:

Free flap
Groin flap

Objective 2: The candidate can draw and describe a groin flap

Question 3:

You decide to proceed with a groin flap. Please draw your markings and describe your surgical technique.

Key Answers 3:

Draw ASIS, PSIS and Pubic Tubercle
Axis of the flap is 2 cm to 3 cm below this line
Dimensions of the flap are 20 cm × 10 cm
Pedicle is superficial circumflex iliac artery
Incision laterally and dissection above fascia
As you approach the lateral border of sartorius, need to go subfascial
Visualize the pedicle on the undersurface of the flap
Tube the flap around the thumb
Leave attached for 4 to 6 weeks

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