

Medical Student Examination Questions for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery of Almost 60 Years Ago

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Medical student examination questions of 60 years ago are very rare to find irrespective of medical specialty. Recently, medical student examination questions for thoracic and cardiovascular surgery were found, which were presented between 1957 and 1959 at Seoul National University Medical College. All examination questions were hand-written in six pages by a professor as examiner. Among the six pages, four examination papers were dated and/or the target grade was identified, while the remaining two did not offer any information. These materials are thought to have a valuable historical meaning for the Korean medical community as well as the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Seoul National University Hospital.

Key words: 1. History
2. Student examination
3. Thoracic & cardiovascular surgery

Medical student examination questions of 60 years ago are very rare to find irrespective of medical specialty. Recently, medical student examination questions for thoracic and cardiovascular surgery were found, which were presented between 1957 and 1959 at Seoul National University Medical College. The year 1957 was when a clinic for thoracic and cardiovascular surgery was first opened at Seoul National University Hospital and lectures on thoracic and cardiovascular surgery targeting third- and fourth-year medical students were first introduced at Seoul National University Medical College.

In 1957, the Department of Surgery at Seoul National University Hospital decided to create a thoracic and cardiovascular surgery specialty according to the trends of development in modern medicine. Dr. CB Lee(李燦范, 1915-1967), then an army physician as a lieutenant colonel, was discharged from

the army and immediately placed in charge of the specialty as an assistant professor [1]. These student examination questions were composed in this context.

All examination questions found were hand-written in six pages by Prof. CB Lee himself (Figs. 1-5). Among the six pages, three examination papers were dated and the target grade was identified, while one examination paper had only the date of writing, and the remaining two did not offer any information.

Of the dated examination questions, the earliest one was dated Feb 16, 1957 (Fig. 1). The questions were composed for fourth-year medical students. What is more interesting is that there was additional information in this paper such as the duration of the test (90 minutes) and the testing method (selection of any five questions out of a total of nine questions). Another fact was also mentioned in the paper: the test was held together with the examinations of

Received: February 12, 2016, Revised: March 11, 2016, Accepted: March 18, 2016, Published online: August 5, 2016

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4學年 胸部外科 試驗問題(8題 5題 選擇 2.16.1957, 時間 90分 全教授 合同)

1. 食道의 congenital atresia의 模型圖를 그리고 1) 第一 많은 型 2) X線上으로 stomach air가 나타나는 型을 表示하라
2. Cardiospasm (Achalasia)와 Esophagus carcinoma와의 鑑別診斷
3. Cardiac arrest의 mechanism
4. Constrictive pericarditis (Concretio cordis)의 etiology
5. Cardiac catheterization의 診斷的 價値
6. Tetralogy of Fallot의 symptom과 sign
7. Blalock-Taussig operation의 適應과 術式
8. Patent ductus arteriosus의 X線 所見

補 9. 下記組織의 解剖學的 位置대로 順位를 적어라(但 前 → 後)
 食道 氣管(或은 氣管支) 肺動脈 肺靜脈 大動脈

10. Esophagus carcinoma의 symptom

Fig. 1. Medical student examination questions dated February 16, 1957 (for a fourth-year medical student).

3學年 胸部外科 試驗問題(1957.3)

- 1) Decortication의 適應
- 2) Lung volume의 subdivision의 定義와 正常值
- 3) Pulmonary segments의 Terminology
- 4) Pulmonary emphysema, Pulmonary tuberculosis(1例), Bronchogenic carcinoma(1例) 에서 vital capacity, resting minute volume, bronchspirometry, bronchoscope 및 bronchography에 特有的 變化를 말하라
- 5) Pulmonary abscess와 Bronchiectasis와의 鑑別 診斷

- 1) Aspirative origin으로 發生한 pul.abscess의 好發部位
- 2) Bronchography의 contraindication
- 3) Pul tbc, moderately advanced (Rt upper lobectomy), arrested (3 m), II
- 4) The patient who has large cavity (diameter 4.0 cm) at right upper lobe and couldn't receive any treatment. What is the reasonable therapy of him?
- 5) Pulm. abscess의 Sputum의 特徵
- 6) Clinical symptoms of Bronchiectasis

Fig. 2. Medical student examination questions dated March 1957 (for a third-year medical student).

3學年 4291. 9. 3

- 1) Pulmonary abscess of aspirative origin
- 2) Contraindication of bronchography
- 3) Explain the following classification: Pul tbc, moderately advanced (Rt upper lobectomy), arrested (3m), II
- 4) Clinical symptoms of Bronchiectasis

- 3) Surgical indication of pulmonary tuberculosis

4292. 5. 28.

- 1) Mediastinal flutter
- 2) Decortication
- 3) Maximal breathing capacity
- 4) Pulmonary segments of Lt upper lobe
- 5) Pulmonary Abscess of aspirative origin

Fig. 3. Medical student examination questions dated September 3, 1958 and May 28, 1959 (for a third-year medical student).

4292. 2. 17.
- 1) Mechanism of cardiac arrest
 - 2) Etiology of constrictive pericarditis
 - 3) Indication and Technique of Blalock-Taussig operation
 - 4) Roentgenographical findings of Coarctation
-
- 1) Roentgenographical findings of
 - a) pericardial tamponade
 - b) constrictive pericarditis
 - c) patent ductus arteriosus
 - d) coarctation
 - e) tetralogy of Fallot
 - 2) Treatment of Tetralogy of Fallot

Fig. 4. Medical student examination questions dated February 17, 1959.

A

1. 胸壁을 前面에서 後面으로 矢狀方面으로 드러갈때에(들어갈때에-저자주) 下記의 組織의 胸部學上의 位置의 順位(前->後 順位로 적으라)
食道, 氣道(或은 氣管支), 肺動脈 肺靜脈 大動脈
 2. 食物通道가 障礙되는 疾患病名을 列舉하라(stricture dysphagia)
Foreign body
Stricture
Atresia
Cardiac spasm
Tumors
 3. 男子成人 食道의 기리(길이로 생각됨-저자 주)
 4. Congenital atresia의 模型圖 그리고
1) 其中 第一 흔한 型
2) X 像으로 stomach air가 나타나는 型
 5. Cardiospasm (achalasia와 carcinoma의 鑑別診斷)
食物通道
bougie 通道
dilatation
 6. Carcinoma of esophagus의 symptom
 7. Cardiac arrest를 回復시키는데 必要한 時間
 8. Mechanism of cardiac arrest
 9. Constrictive Pericarditis (Concretis cordis)의 Etiology
 10. Cardiac catheterization
 11. Tetralogy of Fallot의 symptoms and signs
 12. Blalock & Taussing operation
Potts-Smith-Gibson operation
 13. Patent ductus arteriosus의 Radiographic Findings
-
- 1) Inoperability and Operability of Bronchogenic carcinoma
 - 2) Special diagnostic measures of Bronchogenic carcinoma
 - 3) Congenital atresia of the Esophagus
 - 4) Cardiospasm
 - 5) Differential Diagnosis between Achalasia and Carcinoma of the Esophagus

B

- 1) Diagnostic measures of bronchogenic carcinoma
- 2) Original diseases of the esophageal varices and those surgical treatment
- 3) Several esophageal diseases causing dysphagia
- 4) Differential diagnosis between achalasia and esophageal carcinoma

Fig. 5. (A, B) Medical student examination questions, undated.

other surgical professors from different specialties.

On two dated examination question pages, the year was expressed according to the Korean traditional year-counting system, called 'Danki(檀紀) in the traditional year-counting system at that time (Figs. 3, 4).

For the better understanding of readers, these original documents have been rewritten by the author of this paper, as above. (Figs. 1-5).

In conclusion, these materials are thought to have a valuable historical meaning for the Korean medical community as well as the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Seoul National Univer-

sity Hospital.

Conflict of interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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