Advanced Dental Admissions Test (ADAT)

March 17, 2016
Venita Sposetti
Why make a new exam? Why not just use the NBDE scores?

- The NBDE is given for the purpose of identifying beginning dentists’ baseline competency for beginning general practice. This information is for state boards to use in licensure.

- The NBDE is calibrated and the questions are written with the intent of separating the people who know the MINIMUM you need to know to be a safe beginning practitioner from those who do not know the minimum.

- It is a valid and reliable instrument to do that.

- The scores are not valid and reliable means to separate the very strong student from the outstanding student.
A New Admissions Test

- When the National Dental Board Examination became Pass/Fail in 2012, advanced and graduate program directors lost a tool to use in making admissions decisions.

- The ADAT is a response to this need.
The ADAT

- The purpose of the ADAT is to develop an exam which is a valid and reliable means of separating the very strong student from the outstanding student.
NBDE VS ADAT
The ADA has an ADAT Website


- The ADA told us this week at the ADEA meeting that they would post a list of programs requiring the ADAT in two weeks (early April).
- Program directors are still deliberating whether to require it or not
- This is the first year the exam will be offered.
The ADAT Candidate Guide


- Just like the DAT and the NBDE exams, the ADA has put together a Candidates Guide to give out important information about the exam.

- You will be required to certify that you have read the Candidates Guide just like the NBDE.
This is the First Year for the ADAT. ADAT Structure

- Critical Thinking
  - Biomedical Sciences
  - Clinical Sciences
  - Data, Research Interpretation, & Evidence Based Dentistry
- Principles of Ethics & Patient Management
## Test Specifications Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>15 minutes</th>
<th>Break</th>
<th>10 minutes</th>
<th>30 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>80 Questions</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Data, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry</td>
<td>30 questions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>60 questions</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</td>
<td>30 questions</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Questions</strong></td>
<td>200 questions</td>
<td>220 minutes w/o breaks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administration dates:

- Administration will occur during a testing window that is 3 ½ months in duration.
- May 16, 2016 through August 31, 2016

- Will be given April through July in subsequent years
- Given at Pearson Testing Centers, not Prometric.
Test Specifications (# Questions)

- **Biomedical Sciences (80)**
  - Anatomic Sciences
  - Biochemistry-Physiology
  - Microbiology-Pathology
  - Dental Anatomy-Occlusion
Test Specifications (# Questions)

- **Clinical Sciences (60)**
  - Endodontics
  - Operative Dentistry
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Pain Control
  - Oral Diagnosis
  - Orthodontics / Pediatric Dentistry
  - Periodontics
  - Pharmacology
  - Prosthodontics
  - Case-based items
Test Specifications (# Questions)

- Principles of Ethics and Patient Management (30)
  - Professional Ethics
  - Communication & Interpersonal Skills
  - Anxiety & Pain Control
  - Health Behavior Change
  - Disabled & Medically Compromised
  - Epidemiology
  - Prevention of Oral Diseases
  - Infection Control
  - Materials & Equipment Safety
  - Professional Responsibility/Liability
Test Specifications (\# Questions)

- Data, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry (30)
  - Study Design
  - Data Analysis
  - Result Interpretation
  - Inference and Implication
New Test Item Type: The Patient Box

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE TESTLET</th>
<th>SCENARIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>65 YRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td>Male ☑  Female ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Height</strong></td>
<td>5' 09&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight</strong></td>
<td>240 LBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B/P</strong></td>
<td>170/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Complaint</strong></td>
<td>“I lost the filling in my back tooth.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical History</strong></td>
<td>last saw his physician 2 years ago father died of heart attack at age 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Medications</strong></td>
<td>diuretic for hypertension statin for hypercholesteremia low dose aspirin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social History</strong></td>
<td>married, grown children retired construction foreman has smoked a pipe daily for 25 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The patient presents for replacement of a filling in tooth 19. He reports that he lost the filling over a year ago, but he delayed seeking care because the tooth has not been sensitive. Upon examination, tooth 19 has a missing occlusal restoration and a fractured ML cusp.

Extraoral examination revealed mild actinic damage of his lower lip vermilion border.
Patient BOX

- **Patient**
  - Female, 28 years old.
- **Chief Complaint**
  - “I haven’t been able to open my mouth for two days.”

**Background and/or Patient History**
- Three days prior, left mandibular third molar extraction.

**Current Findings**
- Maximum opening is 10 mm
Which graph best shows the patient’s likely plaque pH response after drinking a sugary beverage?

Patient
Female, 75 years old

Chief Complaint
“My mouth has been dry for over a month.”

Background and/or Patient History
Oropharyngeal cancer treated by radiation.

Current Findings
Test Fees

- 2016 ADAT fees: Examination fee: $250
- Additional ADAT score reports**: $35

** This Score Report fee covers score report requests made after the time of application.
- Score report requested at the time of application are processed at no additional charge
Score Reporting: Complicated this year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRELIMINARY SCORE RESULTS</th>
<th>Test Administration Period</th>
<th>Results posted in ADAT Candidate’s “My Account”</th>
<th>Results available to Advanced Dental Education Program Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICIAL SCORE RESULTS</th>
<th>Test Administration Period</th>
<th>Results posted in ADAT Candidate “My Account”</th>
<th>Results Available for Advanced Dental Education Program Directors and Dental School Deans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 16, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Scoring – Complicated this year

- **Official Final ADAT scores** will be reported as scale scores ranging from 200 to 800, with a target mean of 500 and a target standard deviation of 100. Scores will be reported in increments of 10.

- Scores will be reported for six scales: ADAT Score: an overall score computed based on performance on all ADAT items
  - Critical Thinking
  - Principles of Ethics and Patient Management
  - Biomedical Sciences
  - Clinical Sciences
  - Data, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry.
Preliminary score results will be reported as percentiles (not scale scores).

**THESE PERCENTILES WILL CHANGE WITH EACH TEST ADMINISTRATION PERIOD, AS THE TOTAL NORM GROUP INCREASES.**

Reported candidate percentiles will thus change at each reporting interval (July, August, and September).

Final scale scores will be reported on September 15, 2016.
Retest Policy

- Candidates may test two times per calendar year, and are limited to two testing attempts separated by a minimum of 45 days.
- After two testing attempts, candidates must provide DTS with proof that they are actively applying to advanced dental education programs.
Scoring

- The number of correct responses will not be reported. Examinees will not receive immediate feedback concerning their test results.
- Scores will be reported to the programs selected by the candidate at the time of application.
- Programs added after you sign up will cost an additional fee of $35 per program.
Contact Programs Directly

- Urge you to contact programs directly regarding their decisions on the ADAT.
- The ADA website list and the PASS information can be different from what the program has actually decided to do.
- This is the first year so there are bound to be last minute changes.
- Contact the program for the latest.
Questions?

Everyone’s Irish
On March 17th.