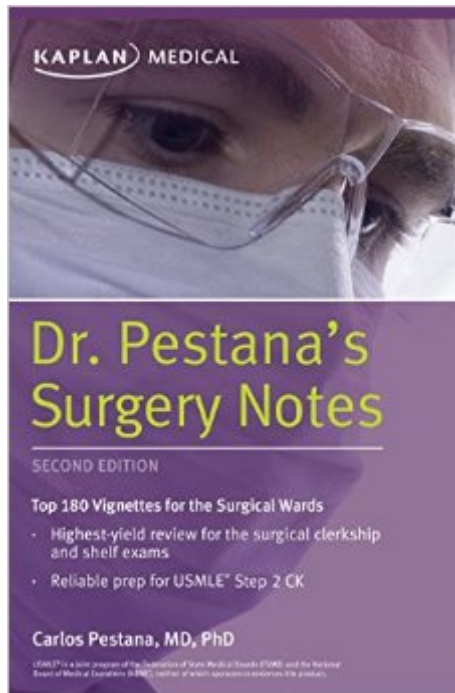


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# Dr. Pestana's Surgery Notes: Top 180 Vignettes For The Surgical Wards (Kaplan Test Prep)



## Synopsis

Celebrated by medical students for over a decade, Dr. Pestana's Surgery Notes is the highest-yield surgery review for the shelf and USMLE Step 2 CK exams. Surgical clerkship allows senior medical students to develop clinical skills and gain a better understanding of surgical disease while caring for patients. But time in the wards is limited, and clerkship covers only a tiny sample of the surgical universe. Dr. Pestana's Surgery Notes: Top 180 Vignettes for the Surgical Wards, by distinguished surgery instructor Dr. Carlos Pestana, contains the surgery knowledge you need to excel on the Surgery shelf exam and USMLE Step 2 CK. Concise high-yield review of core surgery material  
180 vignettes for self-testing  
Used by med students for over a decade  
NEW: 7 feature boxes illuminating tricky surgical topics  
Revised and fully up-to-date  
Pocket-sized to carry with you in the wards  
#1 Best Seller in Emergency Medicine

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I decided to be the guinea pig and rely solely on this book and UW questions (on surgery only). In other words, because I was so busy and exhausted from my surgery rotation, I did not use FA, NMS, CF or any other book. It was almost 8 months since I had IM and did not do great on that shelf. I read this book 4x and made sure I could squeeze out as much info as I could from it. I ended up getting 80% on the shelf. If you have more time, get this book and learn it well but supplement high yield parts that you are weak in with more sources. If you feel like you have no time or energy

left to study after your 16 hour surgery days, using this book alone (and doing UW questions) will 100% guarantee that you pass and possibly honor the shelf.

It's a quick read for downtime during your surgery rotation, but my attending asked questions far beyond the basic "high yield" facts in this book. It's a good quick review or even a pre-read, but not complete on its own.

If you are an MS-III studying for the surgery shelf I cannot recommend this book enough. I, like most, had heard of the 70 page Pestana pdf floating around and used that for the first 5 weeks of my rotation. Had I known sooner about this expanded version I would have made the switch ages ago. It is a very easy read written in a similar tone Dr. Pestana's surgery review. He distills only high-yield facts and adds many clinical pearls. Surgical Recall is an excellent resource for on the wards and OR pimping but this text is invaluable because it cuts through the additional low-yield nonsense that Lawrence provides and gives you what you need for the test. Many times during the shelf I wanted to mentally caress Dr. Pestana's insane eyebrows as the questions seemed as if they had been taken right out of the book. The surgical clerkship can be a hectic time with a seemingly endless time crunch but with this resource you should be more than ready to ace the shelf.

This is all you need to do well on the shelf exam. I usually averaged around 79 or 80 on shelves- nothing special. But surgery was my second highest score- I got an 86. All I did was read this book twice (it's short so you better be able to pretty much recite it) and did the 100-150 or so UWorld questions for surgery. And of course pay attention on rotation. But I didn't like start studying from the beginning of the rotation or anything like that. I'm just a middle of the road medical student.

Excellent book

Highly recommend this little book. This was the only guide I used to study for the surgery shelf exam - I read the entire book and did all the questions in the back - and I got a 91% in the nation on the test. I did not use any other study materials. Highly recommended!

I used this book for the surgery shelf exam and the clerkship. My honest opinion is that it is more helpful for the shelf than the wards. You'll definitely read pieces of information that will help you when pimped by attendings and residents. For non medical people, these are just two levels of

doctors you see in teaching hospitals. I read it over twice in its entirety, plus answered all 180 questions, during the last 7 days before the shelf exam. Each time I found something that I had forgotten or did not fully understand from the first read. This book can be read in 4-5 hours if you stay focused, so I highly recommend it both for cursory review during the clerkship AND for cramming during the last few days of the clerkship, prior to the shelf exam. HOWEVER, this IS NOT ENOUGH for the shelf. I thought the NMS Casebook and First Aid Surgery were useful additions, especially for covering the random bits of information that this book does not cover. Pros:- small and easy to carry in white coat- good comprehensive review for shelf exam (contains the MUST knows for the shelf)- good for reviewing prior to entering a case so you don't look lost in front of your attending Cons:- does not have some details about the pathophysiology of diseases- does not cover finer points about care, such as which antibiotics to use for anaerobic vs. gram negative infections, etc (penicillin, ampicillin, clinda? Ultimately, doing well on the shelf requires you to have some ingenuity, as well as basic knowledge. Everything in this book is necessary to know, but not SUFFICIENT

An excellent first source for quick review of topics during the Surgery clerkships. Not the most useful for preparing for individual surgeries during the rotation. However, it is an excellent short review, along with Q-bank questions in preparation for the shelf. I read Pestana, did the U-world questions, watched the UT video review, and did some MedU cases (my school required these) to prepare for the Surgery Shelf, and felt well-prepared.

It was very helpful for me in regards to passing my shelf exam. I read through it once or so. I probably would have aced my shelf if I'd cared enough to read it and take notes more than once, but whatever. Still a great book.

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